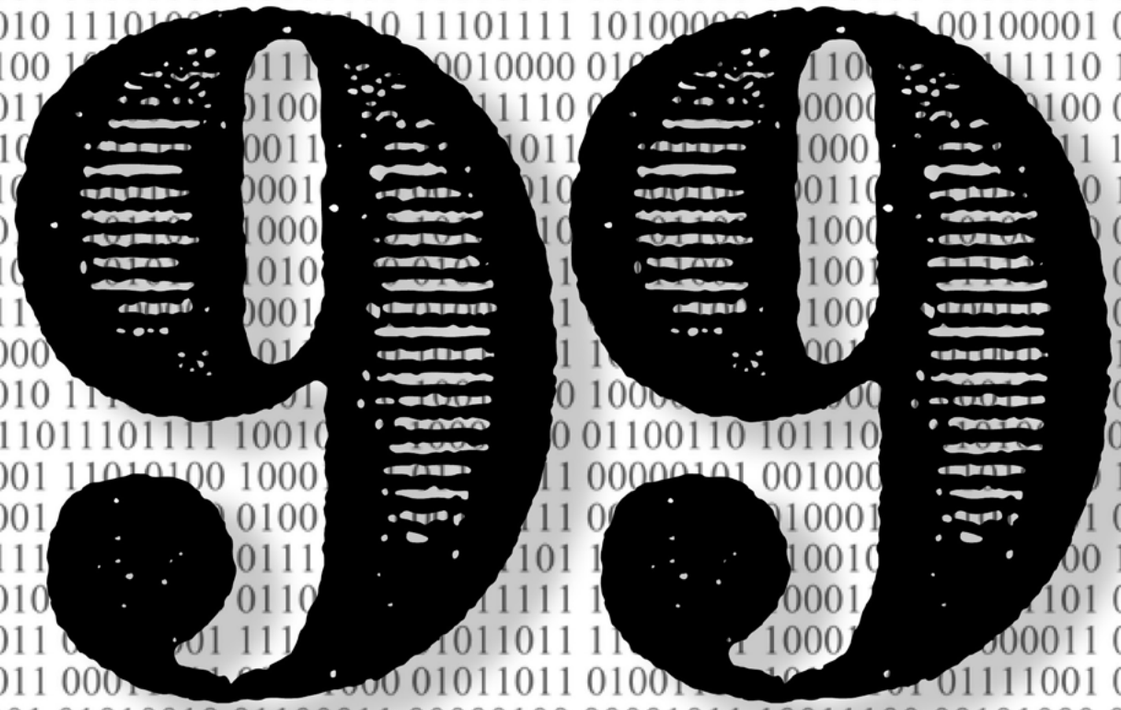
Chess Canada

99 problems



Chess Canada 99 problems

Chess Canada

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subscriptions

CCN is distributed by email to CFC members who have submitted their email address to the CFC:

admin@chess.ca

submissions

CCN is looking for contributions: tournament reports, photos, annotated games. For examples, see this issue or read the 2013.06 Appendix for other ideas.

suggestions

If you have an idea for a story *you* would like to write, email me:

cfc_newsletter_editor@chess.ca

- John Upper
editor *Chess Canada*

Chess Canada 99

99 Critical Positions 3

Solutions:

VIPs 17

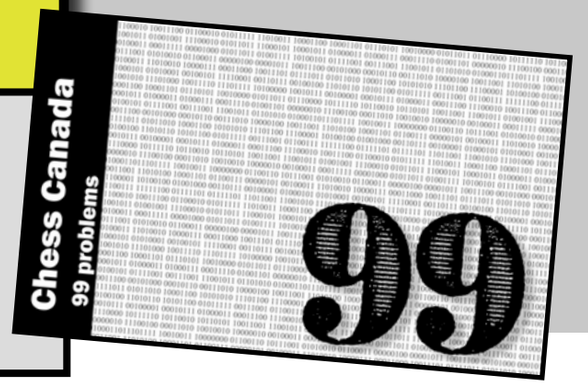
Openings 40

Endings 61

Player Index 16

Cover: 99 problems

No, not inspired by the rap.
Or Wayne Gretzky.
Sometimes a number is just a cigar.



This issue of *Chess Canada* is entirely Critical Positions: where the fate of the game depends on finding (or avoiding) the one move that makes the difference between a draw and another result.

The 99 positions are sorted into three chapters:

1. **VIPs:** games by Canadians against World Champions or their Challengers, or notable games played by world-class players in Canada.
2. **Openings**: with one or both kings uncastled, with a few positions either immediately or soon after castling in a highly theoretical opening.
3. **Endings**: each player with three pieces or fewer.

Positions are not sorted by difficulty, but more objectively: chronologically, by ECO code, and by material (from fewer to more pieces), respectively. Positions with more analysis, or ones which *I* found specially difficult, are indicated by a red dot. YMMV.

- John Upper

99 Critical Positions

Chess Canada 99 problems

This issue of *Chess Canada* is nothing but Critical Positions:

- winning combinations
- surprising tactics
- endgames requiring precise play
- simple calculation exercises
- moments when one player went badly wrong.

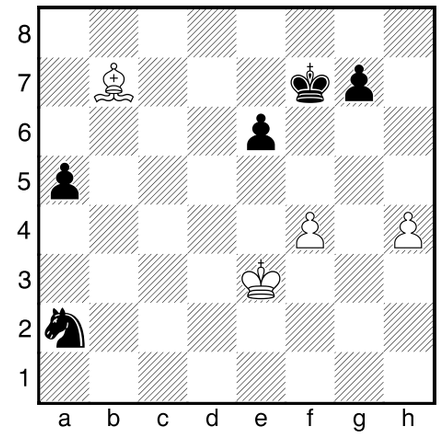
The ■ and □ squares next to each diagram indicate Black or White to move. Numbers in the square indicate the game.

Game numbers highlighted by a red circle are either very difficult or feature significantly more analytical commentary.

The positions are divided into three sections:

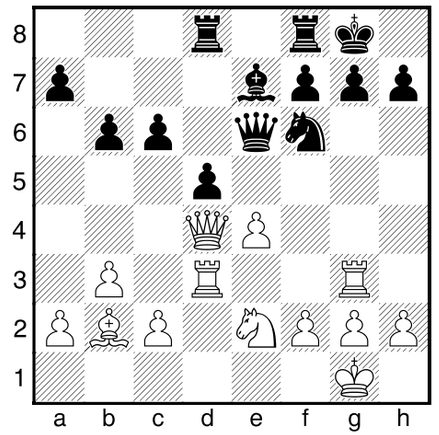
- **VIPs**: mostly World Champions and their Challengers playing in Canada or against Canadians;
- **Openings**: positions before both players have castled, or very soon after castling;
- **Endings**: positions with fewer than three pieces each.

VIPs (1-28)



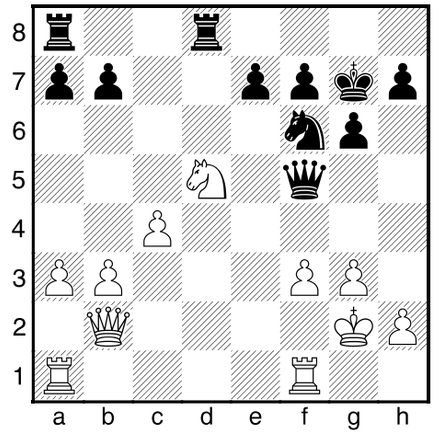
1

The World Championship is at stake...



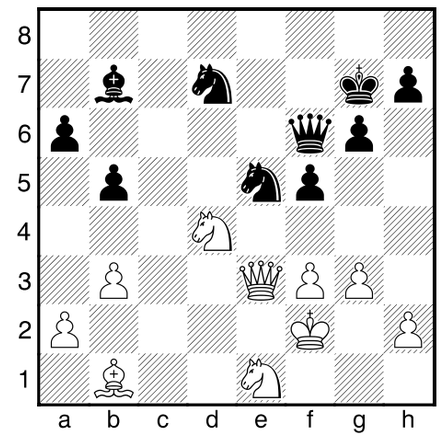
3

Pillsbury won this with his eyes closed.



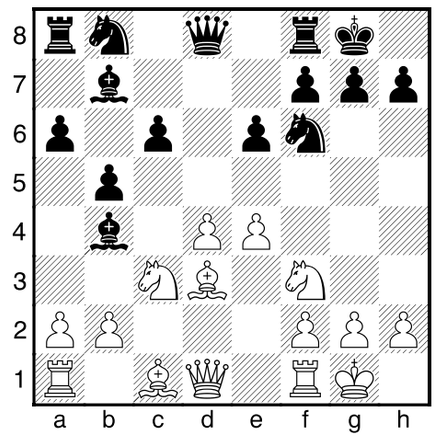
5

What would Bobby Fischer play?



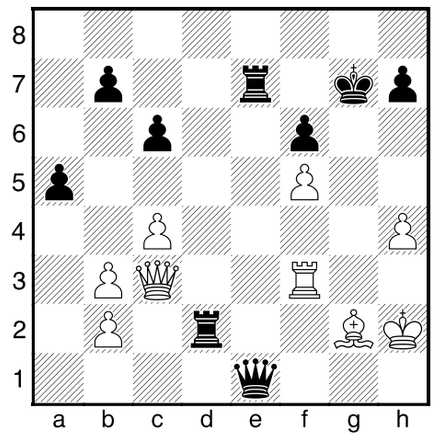
2

How should Steinitz activate his worst−placed piece?



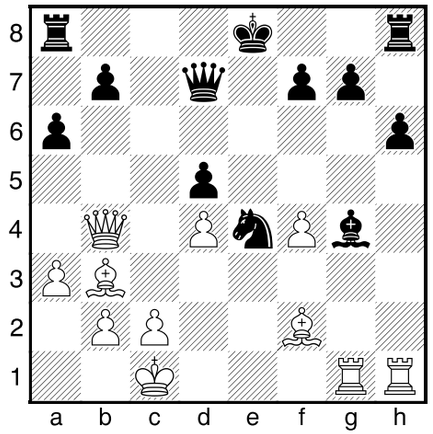
4

Can you win *this*... with your eyes closed?



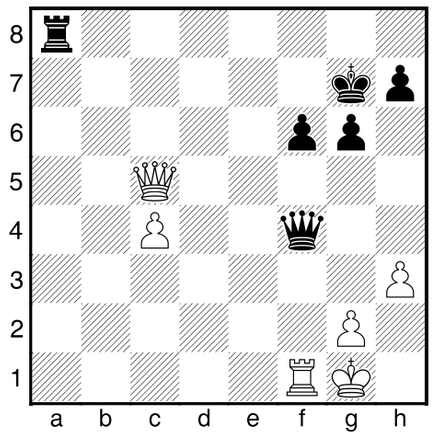
6

Find the quickest win.



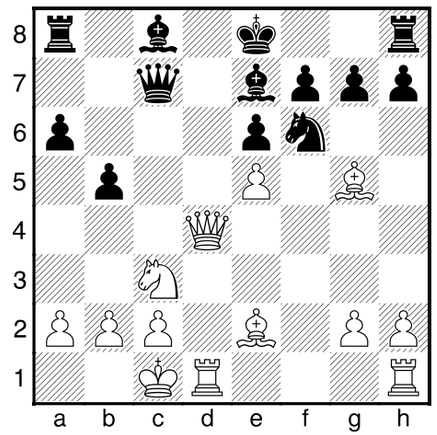
7

What would Bobby Fischer play?



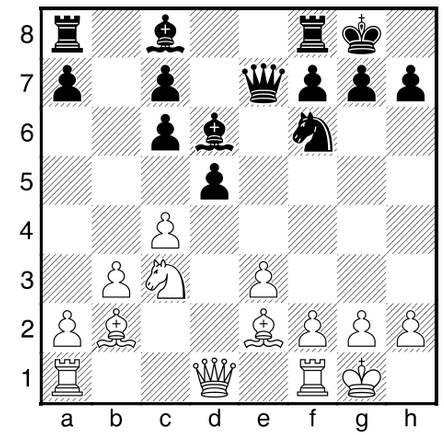
9

Can White win the f6 pawn if Black goes ...♕e4?



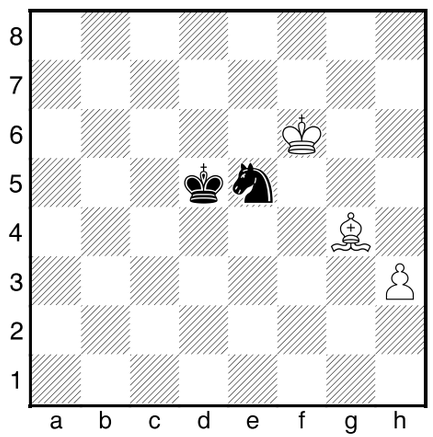
11

What happens on: ...♘d5, ♗xe7 ♘xc3?



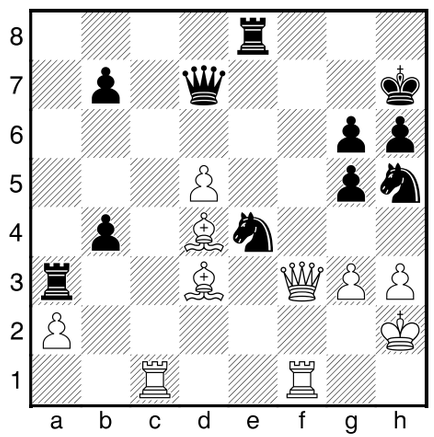
13

White has a safe position in an e3 English, with potential play on the c−file. What should Black do?



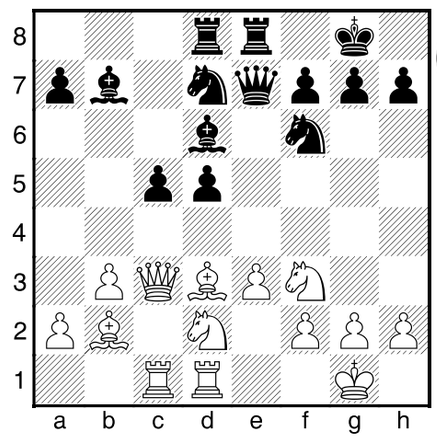
8

It's obviously a draw... so prove it.



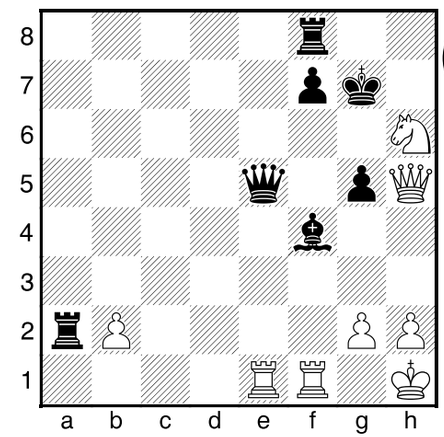
10

What would you play against the 10th World Champion?



12

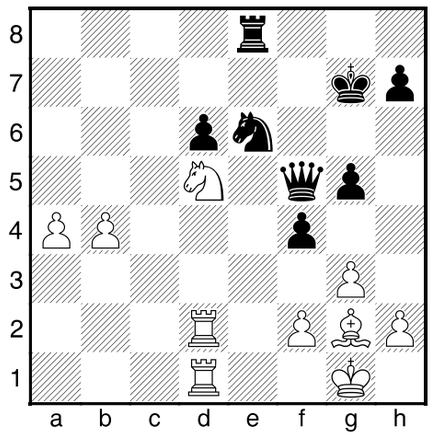
What happens on 15...d4!?



14

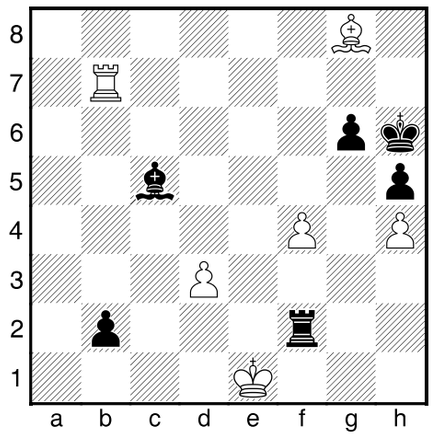
Defend this against a young Indian player named "Anand"*.

**Possibly from the Hindi, meaning "you are in time trouble".*



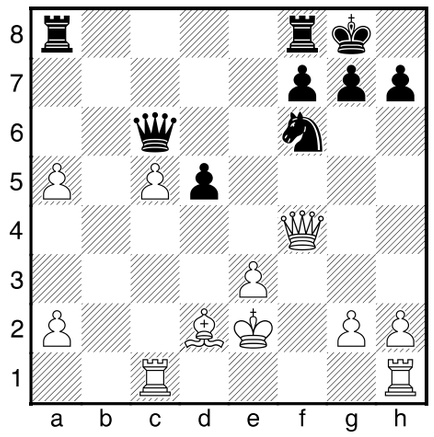
15

It's not "only a simul" when you're playing Kasparov.



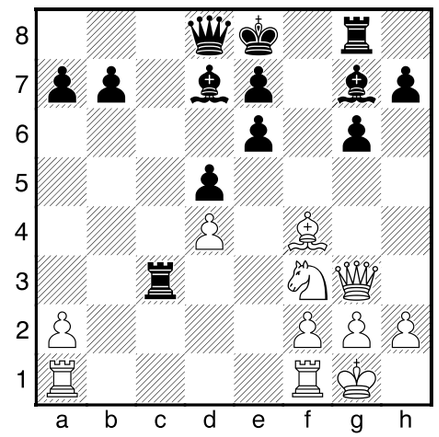
17

1988 World Blitz Championship: Rd. 3.



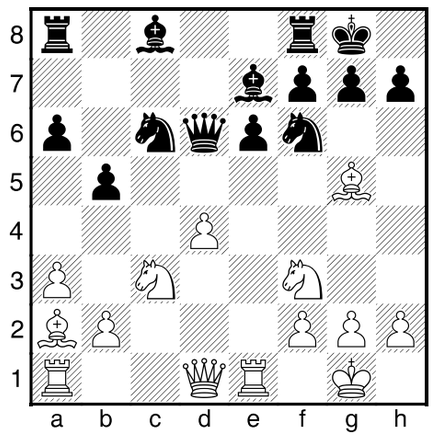
19

Korchnoi came to *play*!



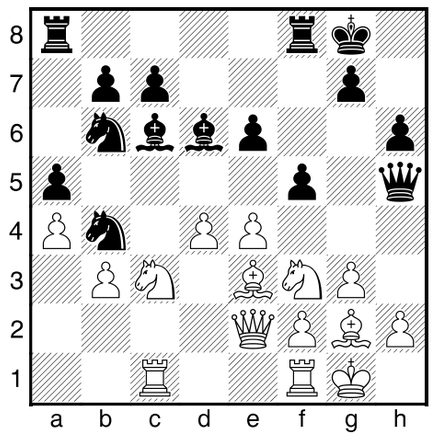
21

...♗xd4 or ...♖f8



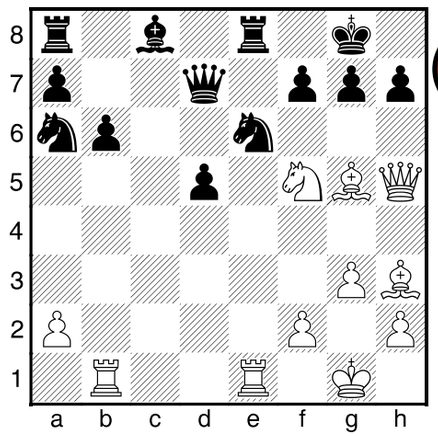
16

1988 World Blitz Championship: Rd. 2.



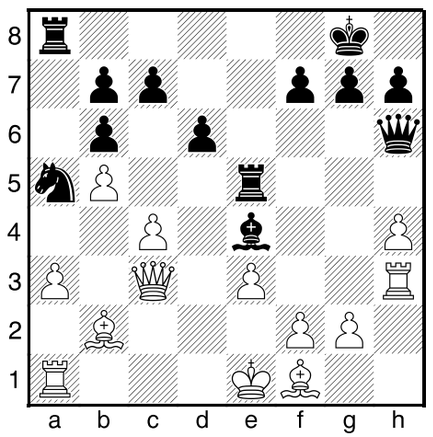
18

What happens after 22.d5?



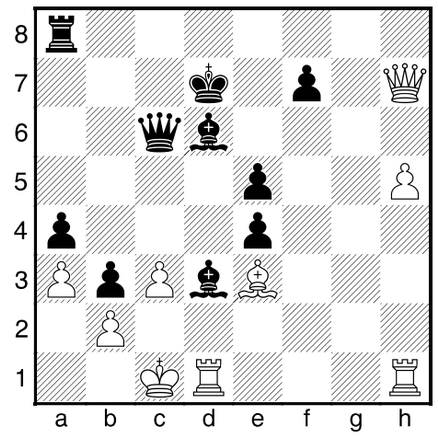
20

Voted the second best game in *Chess Informant* 100. How many ways are there to win this?



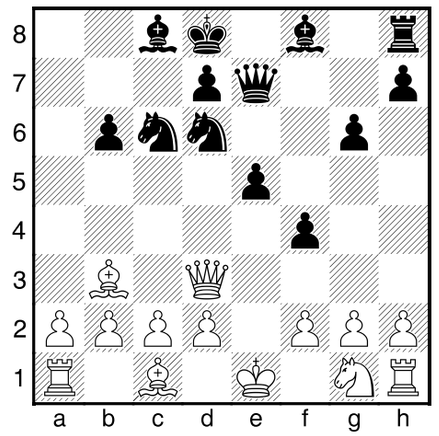
22

What would be *fun* to play against Shirov?



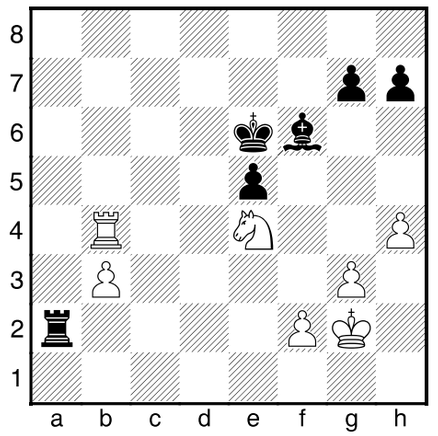
23

What can Shirov do if ...♗xa3!?



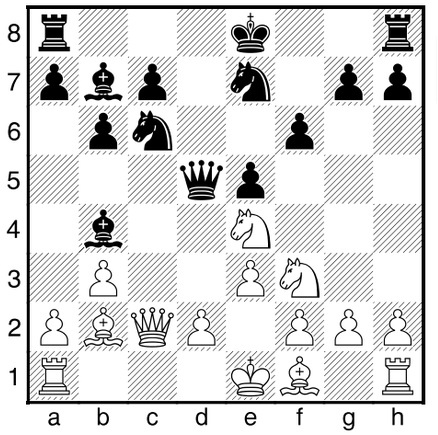
25

Shirov is threatening ...e4, what should White do?



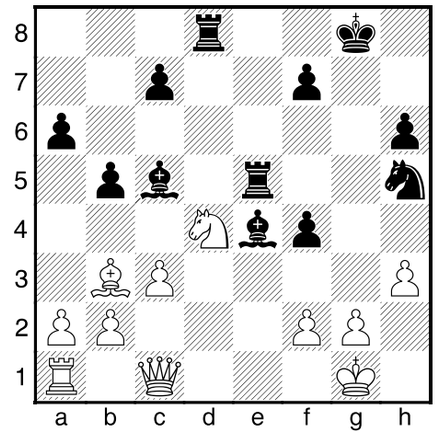
27

Magnus says best defence is...?



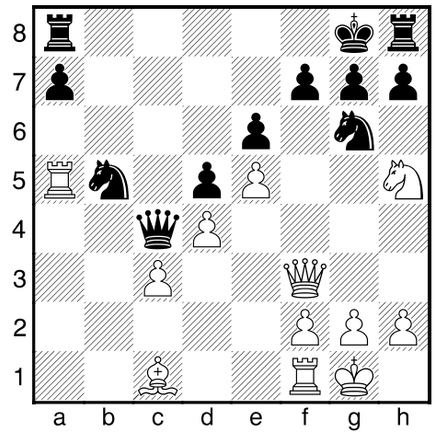
29

Black is ahead in development and has a pawn in the center. Can White live to fight another Day?



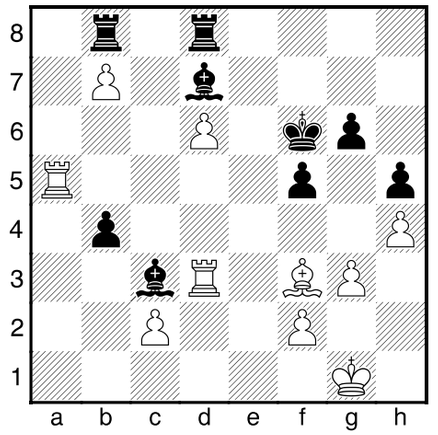
24

Shirov is scrambling for comp. What should White do?



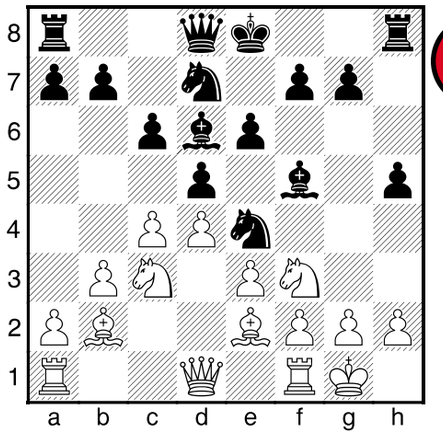
26

What would Nigel Short play? What would *Alekhine* play?



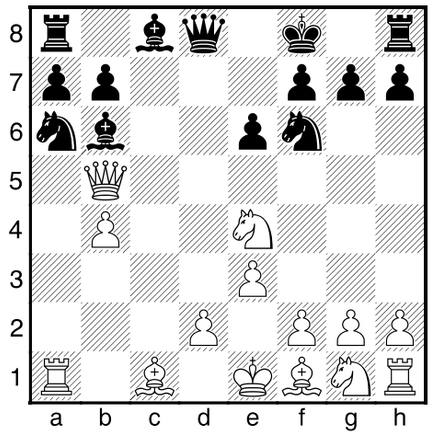
28

Can you put away the five-time World Champion?



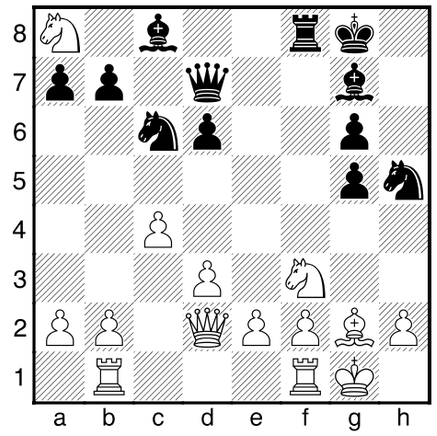
30

What happens on ♘xe4?



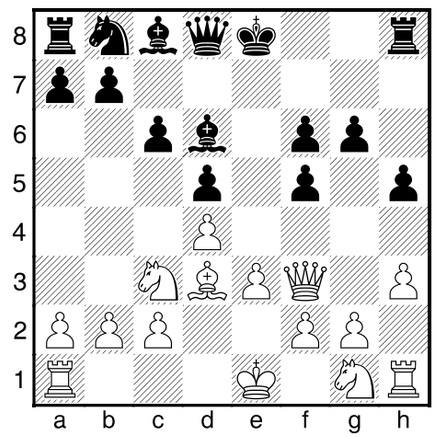
31

What should Nickoloff do if White takes on f6?



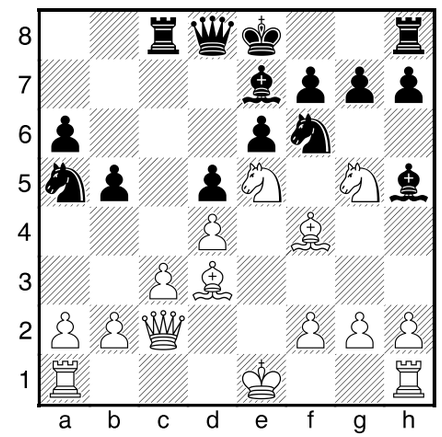
33

Who is better and why?



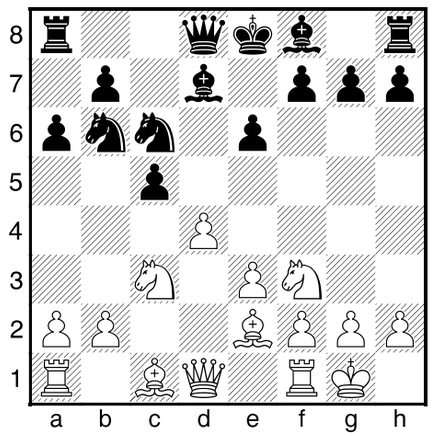
35

Black has made five pawn moves to control the light squares. Can White do anything about it?



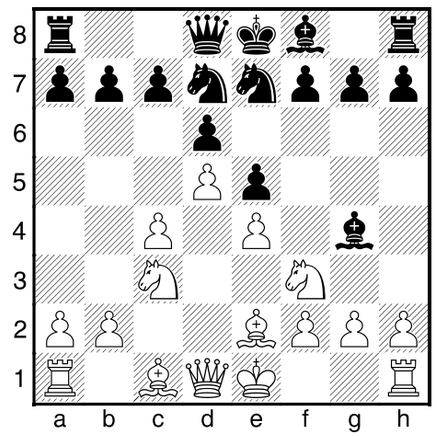
37

What's up with ♘g5!?



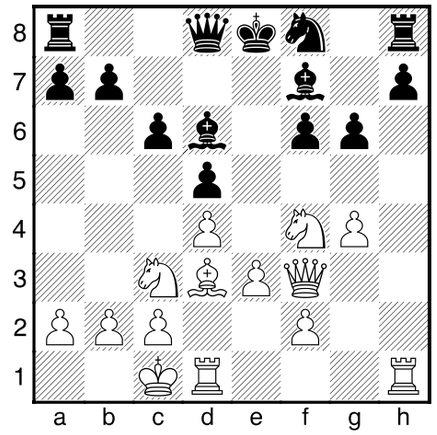
32

Is White trying to put Black to sleep?



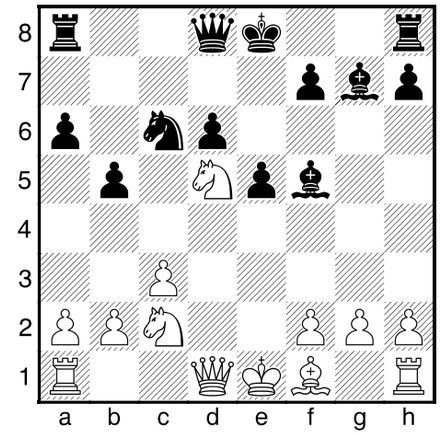
34

KID−style with ...g6, or something else?



36

What should Black do?



38

1976: should Spraggett challenge d5 with ...♘d7, or commit the ♔ with ...00?

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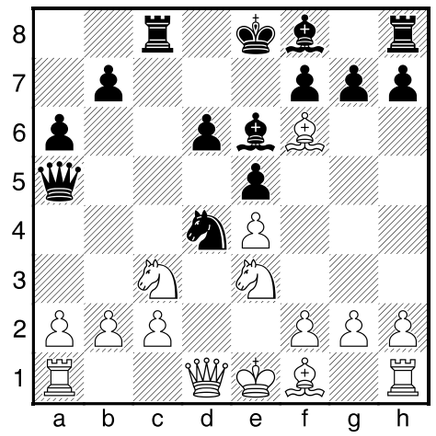
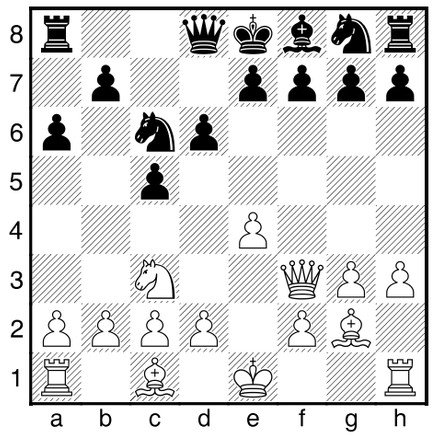
99 problems



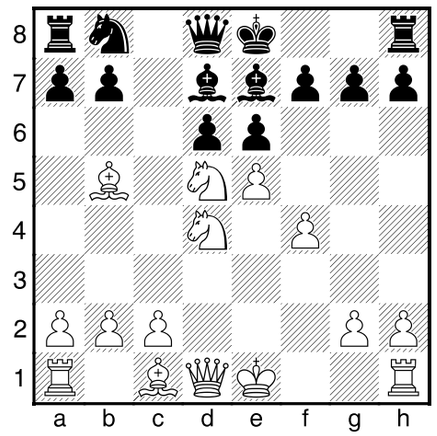
39

1994, and the Sveshnikov is still a tricky beast...



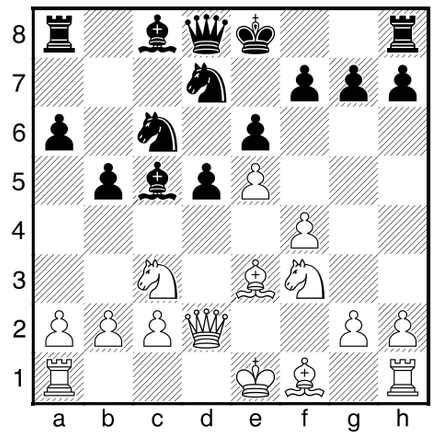
41

...g6 or ...e6



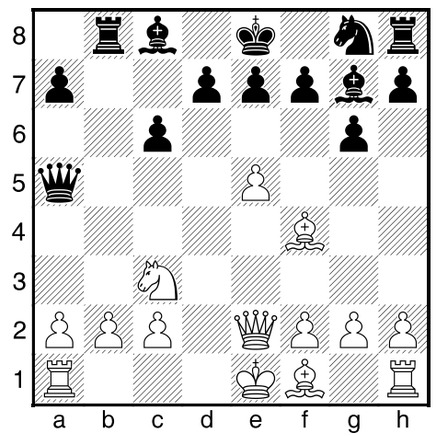
43

Sambuev played an anti−Sicilian sideline, can you figure out the best sequence of exchanges?



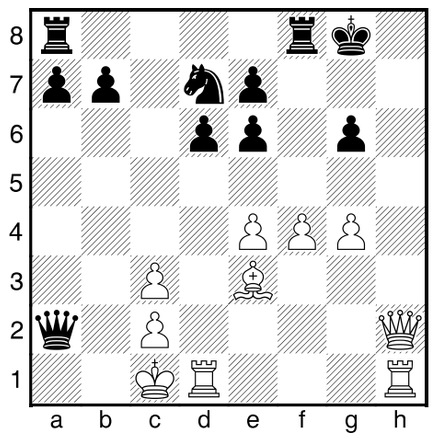
45

What happens if 10.♗d3?



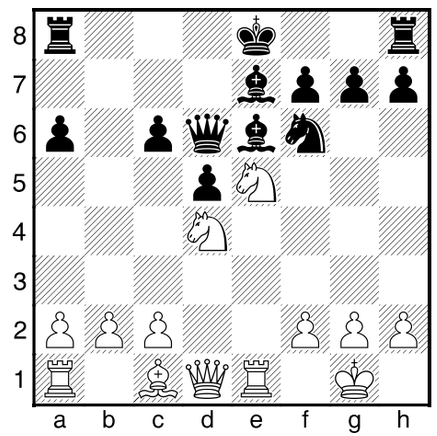
40

Igor Ivanov is attacking. What should White do about b2?



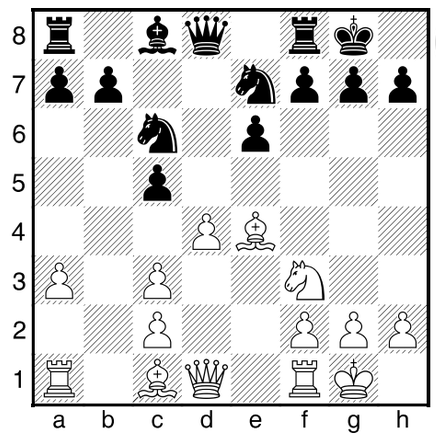
42

When you play the Dragon you have to know some lines a LONG way...



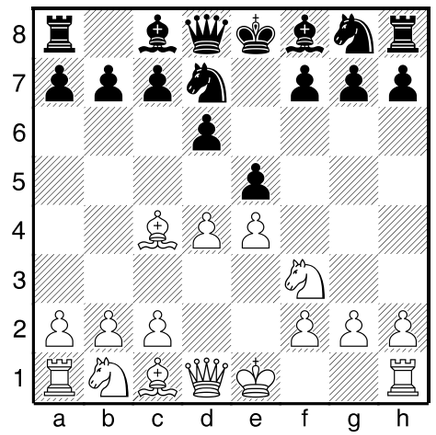
44

What should White do after ...c5? After ...♖c8?



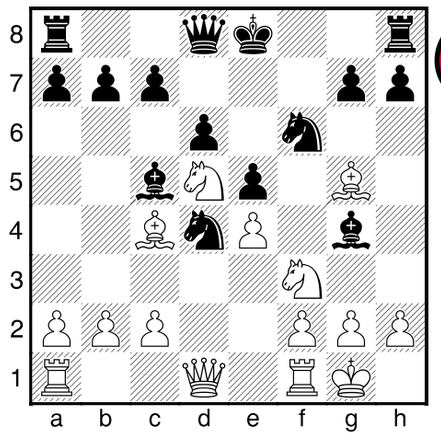
46

Is ♗xh7+ sound?



47

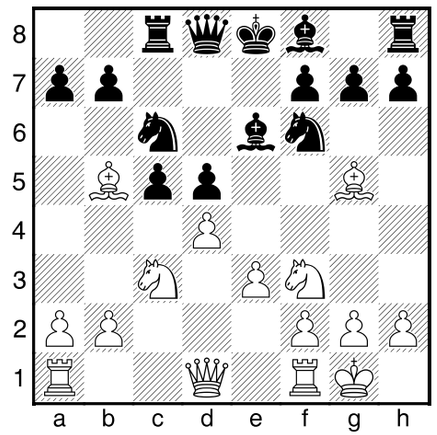
Yes, it's a Philidor.
What should Black play, and what should Black NOT play?



49

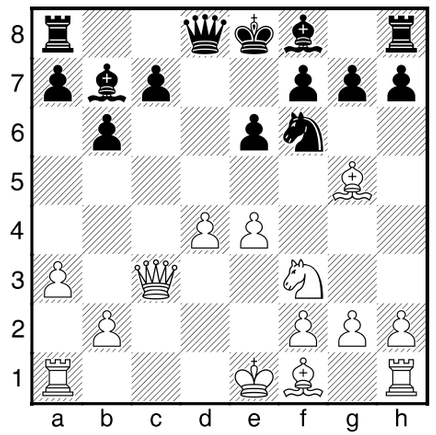
Should Black:

A) castle kingside;
B) capture on f3;
C) play ...c6?



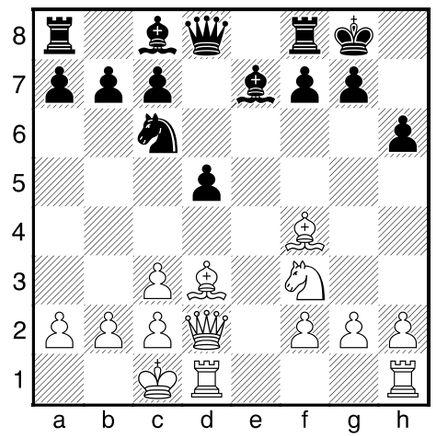
51

...h6 or something else?



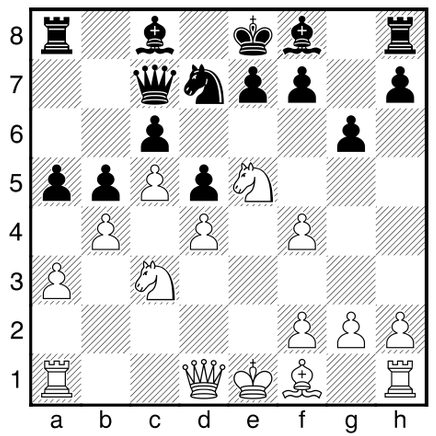
53

White is playing gambit style against a QID; what should Black do?



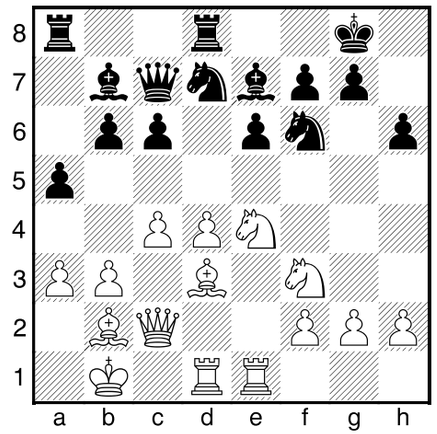
48

Should Frank Anderson take h6?



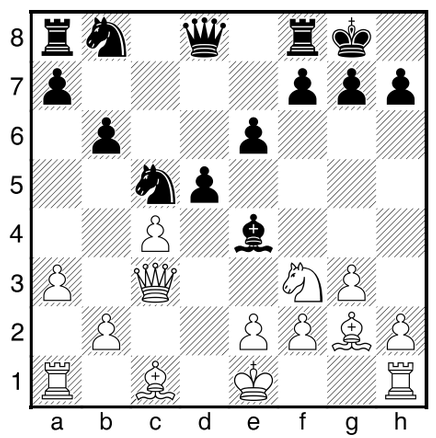
50

What's better: ....♘xe5 or ...f6?



52

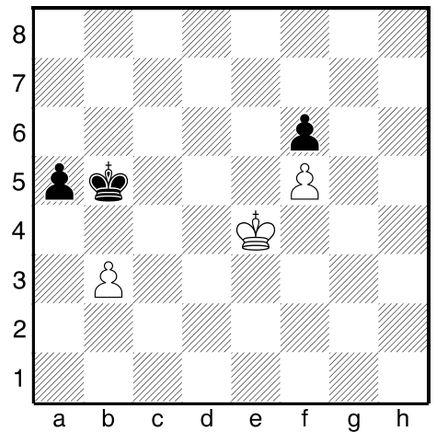
...c5 or ...♘xe4



54

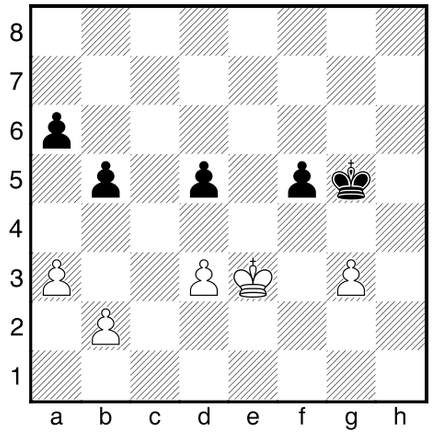
Should Spraggett castle, or try for more with ♗g5?

Chess Canada
99 problems



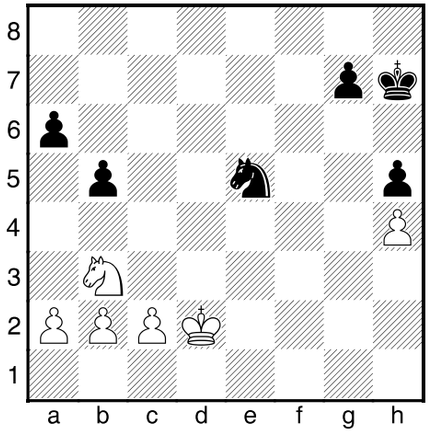
55

Too easy?



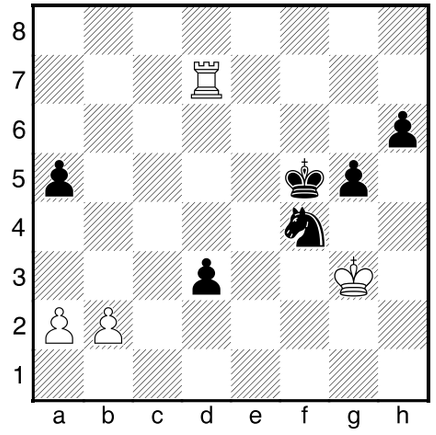
57

Glory or safety?



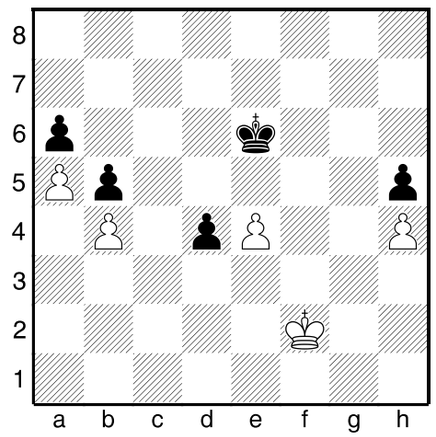
59

...♘c4+ or ...♘f3+



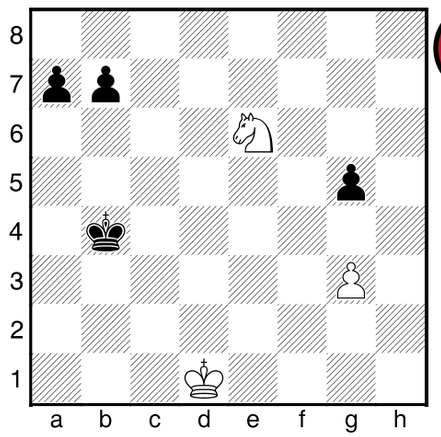
61

A National Championship *and* an endgame study!



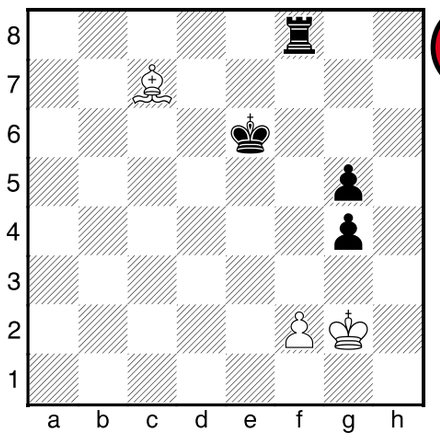
56

WIM vs GM



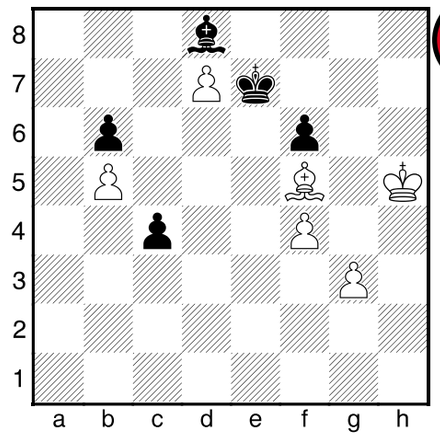
58

Karsten Müller approved!



60

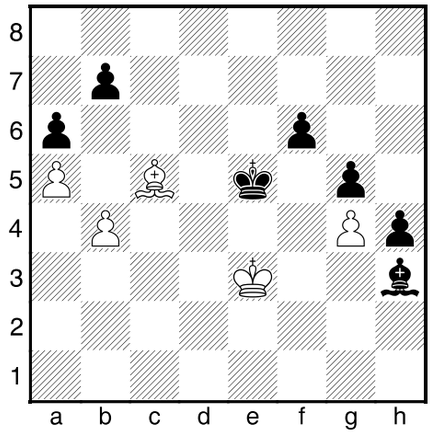
Spraggett has been defending an exchange down ending for 30+ moves. Can you hold it?



62

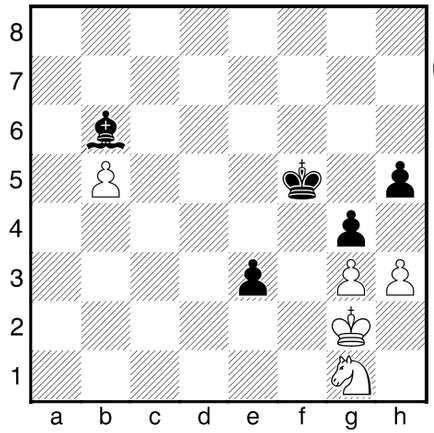
Who wants to practice opposite B endgames?

Chess Canada
99 problems



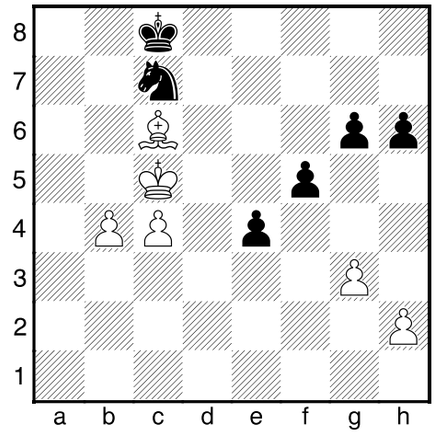
63

Practice Bishop endgames,
said someone?



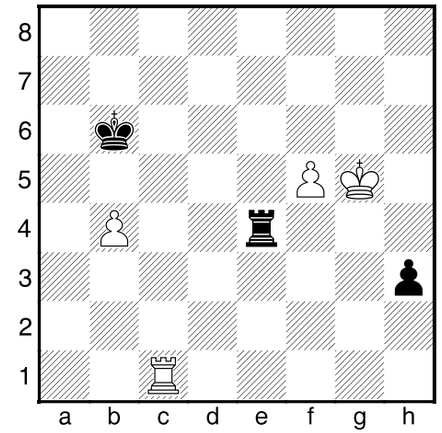
65

Can White spoil Black's shot
at a GM Norm?



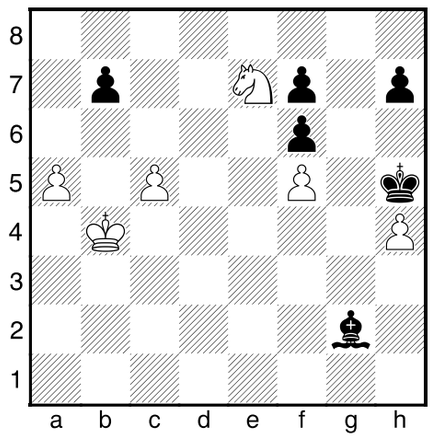
67

At stake:
Fame and Film Stardom



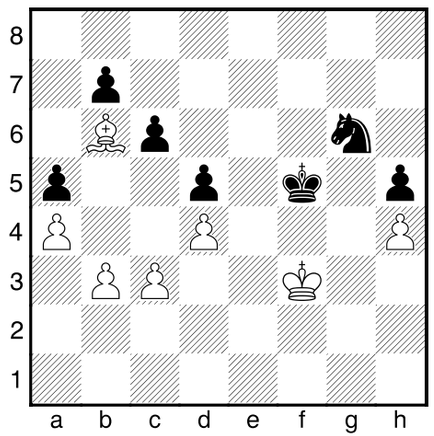
69

Passed pawns must be pushed,
or Do not hurry?



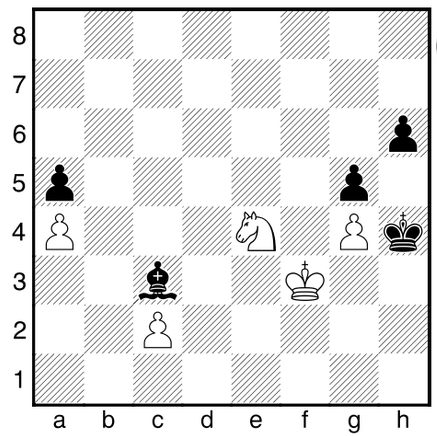
64

Crafty IM vs WYCC Champ.



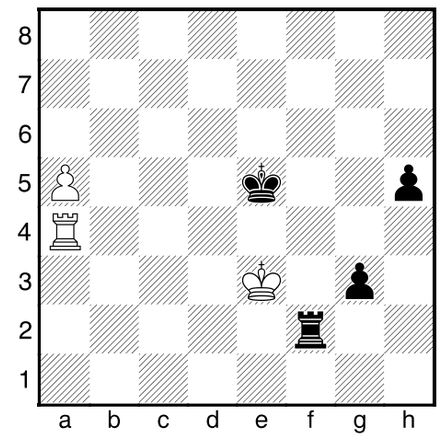
66

Rank the following:
41.♔g3, 41.♗d8, 41. ♗xa5.



68

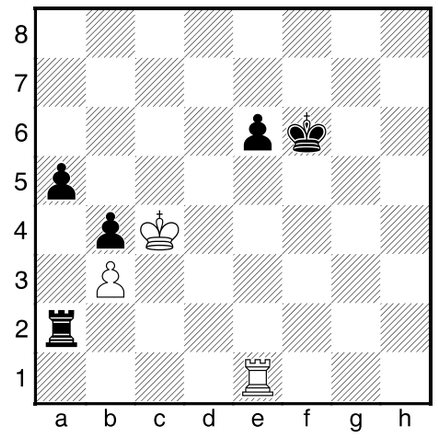
Black has a ♗ vs ♘ with ♙'s on
opposite sides, but now what?



70

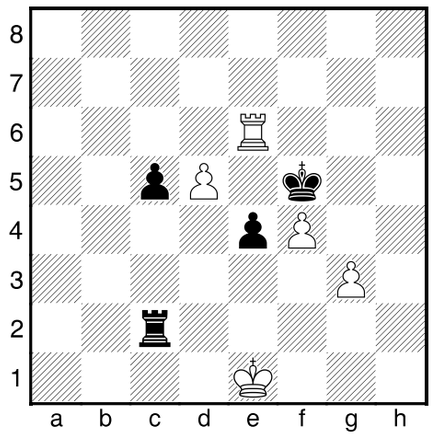
GM vs GM−to−be

Chess Canada
99 problems



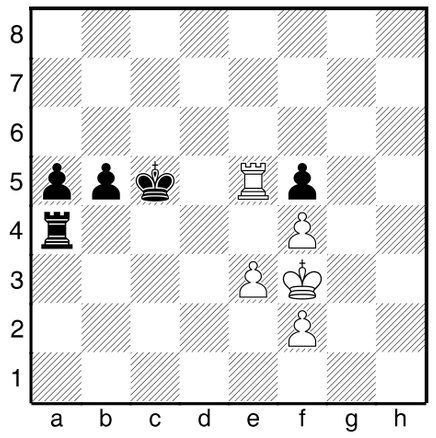
71

Passed pawns must be pushed,
or Do not hurry?



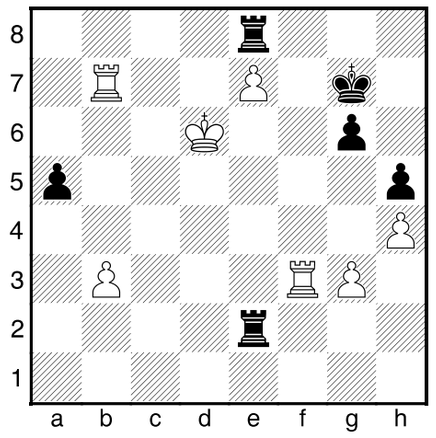
73

60...♖g2 or 60...♖c4?



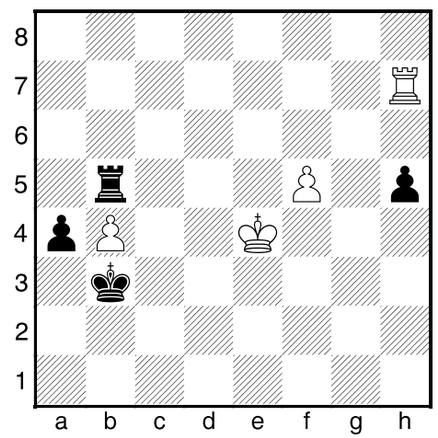
75

Vidmar − Yanofsky



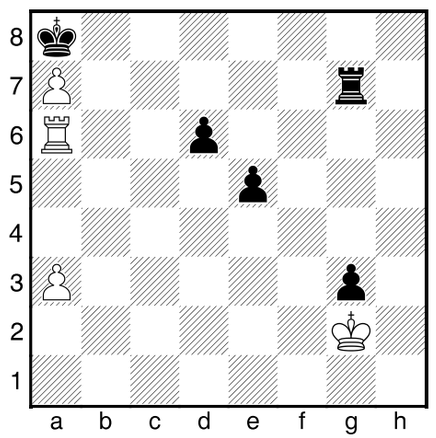
77

Black can hold!



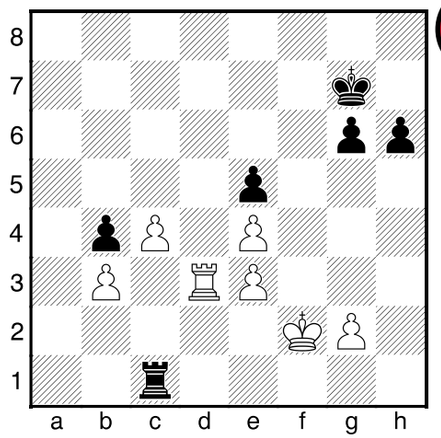
72

Beat White and he misses his
GM Norm.



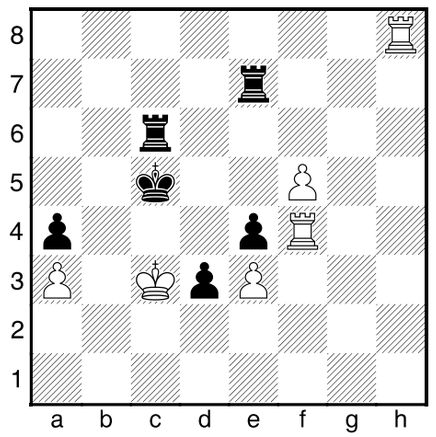
74

Aman on the GM Norm quest.



76

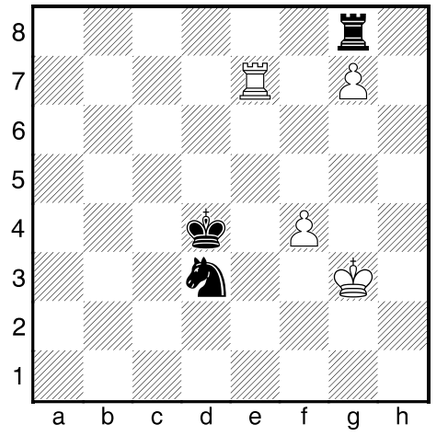
For the National Championship:
49...♖c3 or ...♔f6



78

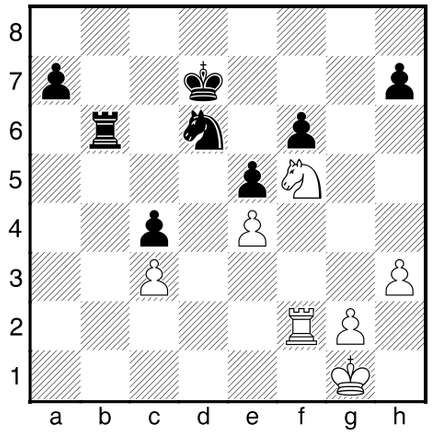
Krnan vs Preotu

Chess Canada
99 problems



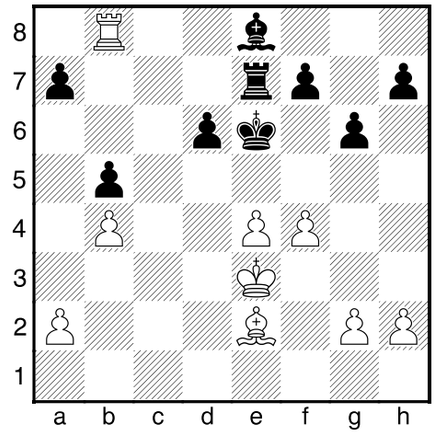
79

Admit it: you're not even going to try this one.



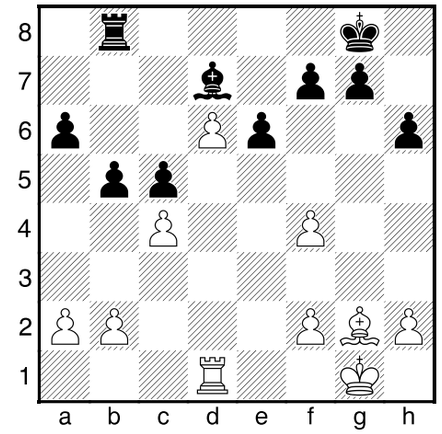
81

Trois−Rivieres



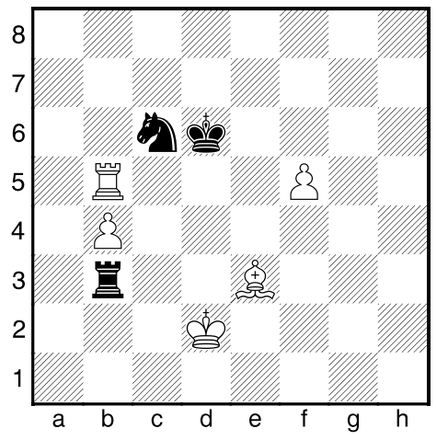
83

Black is under serious pressure: ...a6 or ...d5 or ...f5?



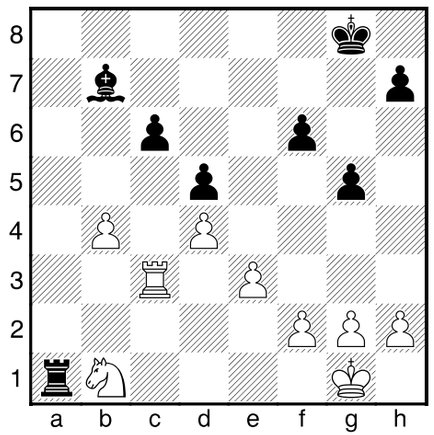
85

Kleinman going for the IM title.



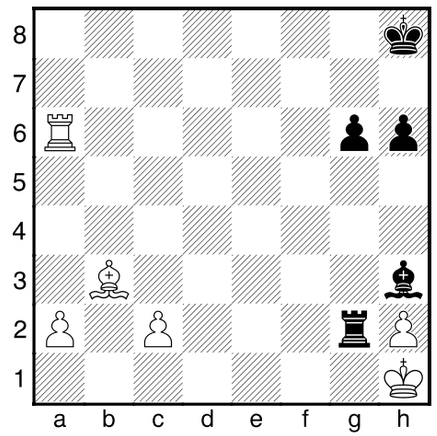
80

The 2012 World Championship Challenger is White...



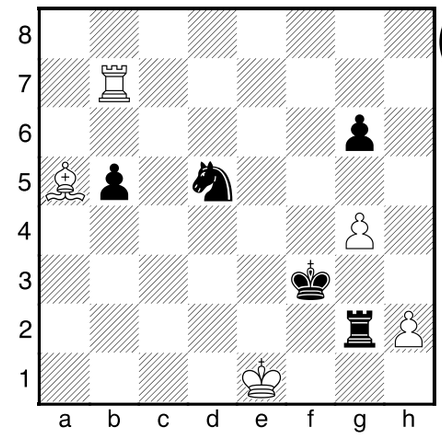
82

WYCC U8



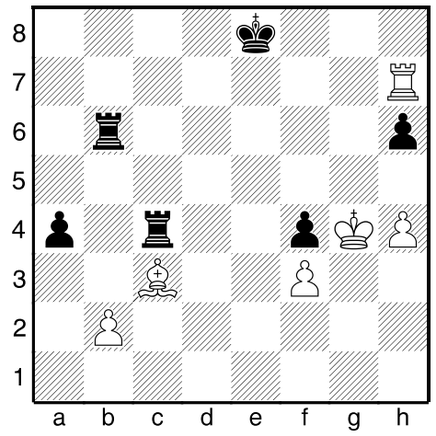
84

Susan Polgar is watching you...



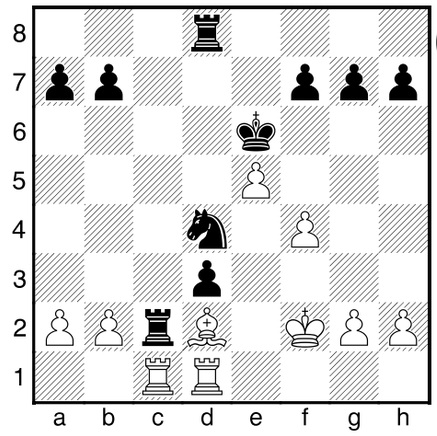
86

Sokolov − Kovalyov



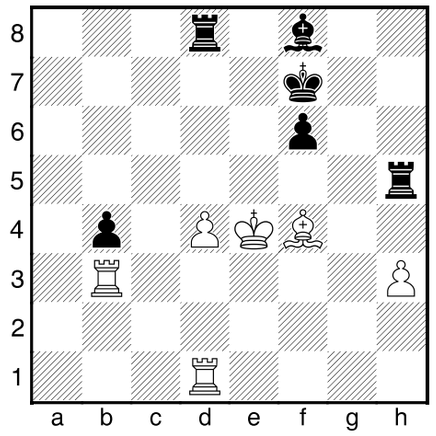
87

Just one more precise move...



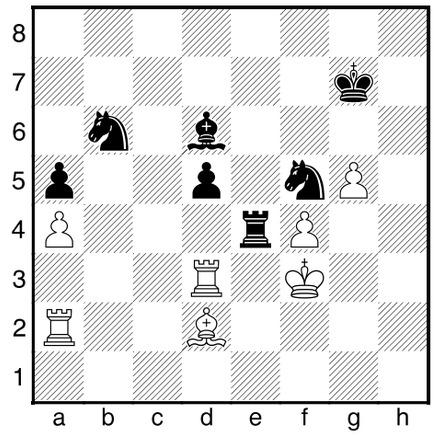
89

GM James Tarjan is alive; his opponent will not be unless he finds the best move now.



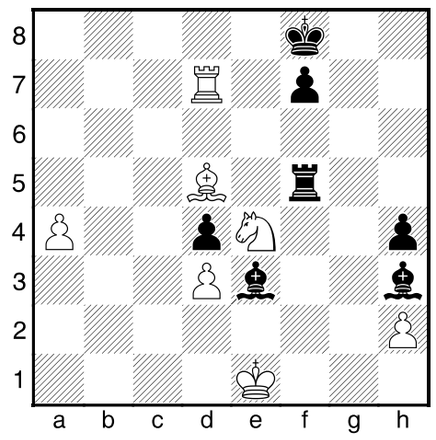
91

Does Black have a threat, and (if so) what should White do?



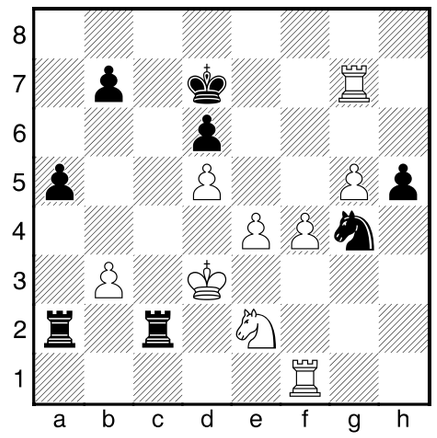
93

...♘d4+ or ...♘c4



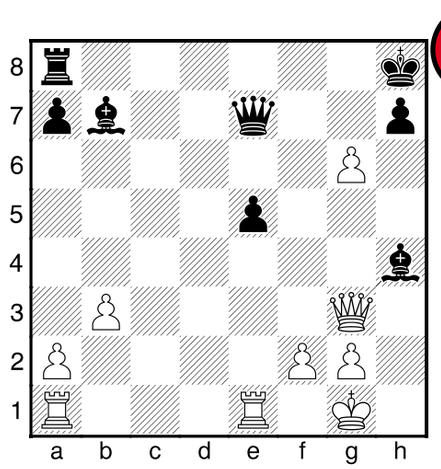
88

Top Board, last round, 2600+ opponent, tough position...



90

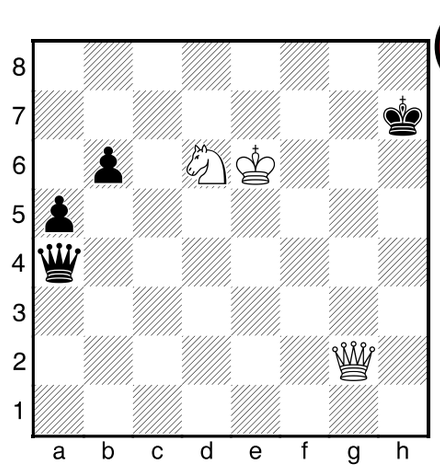
A long last−round game where White needs a win to reach 6/9 to be eligible for the IM title. How do you kill his hopes?



92

What happens on ♕xe5+?

Hint: Krnan has the hardest−working rook you have seen.

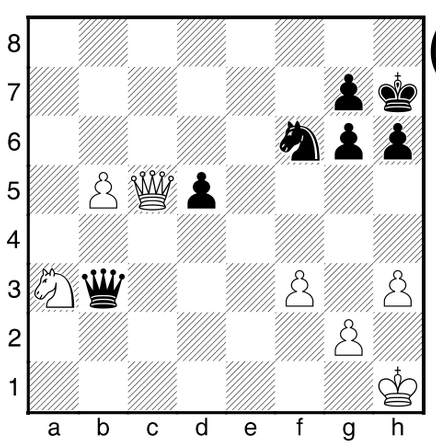


94

GM vs IM at World 50+ Teams

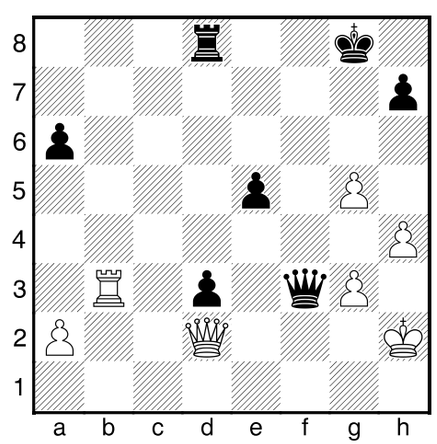
Chess Canada
99 problems

Chess Canada 99 problems



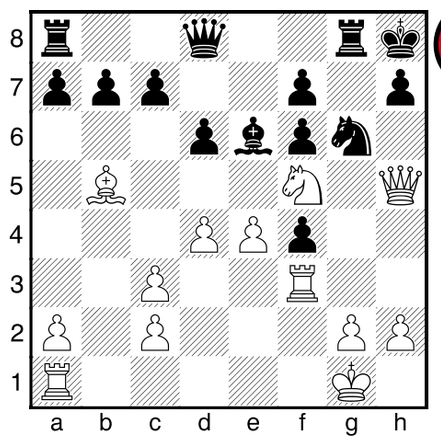
95

Safer king vs
more advanced pawn...?



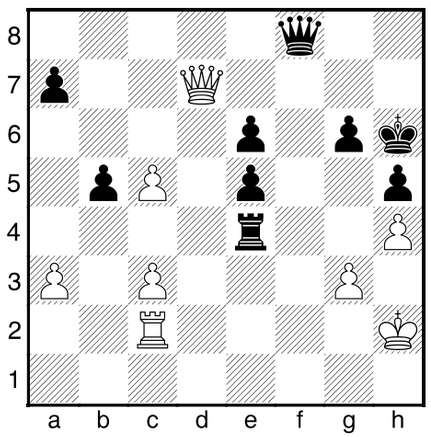
97

Ready to get dirty?



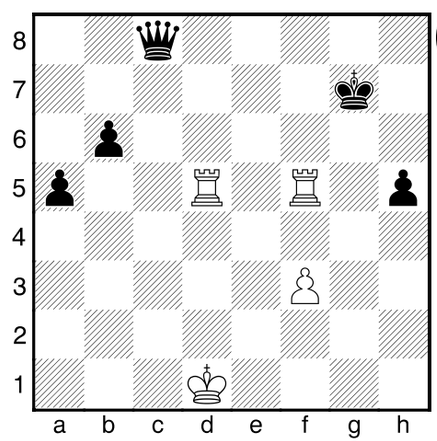
99

Is Capablanca threatening
mate−in−16 with ♕xh7+?



96

Board 1 vs a 2700+ opponent,
everyone is watching...
it's your move.



98

Major piece endgames
are too difficult.

No one would blame you if you
just looked at the answer.

Editor's Notes

Where are the middlegames?

There are some middlegames in the VIP section, but after collecting over 180 positions I decided to split the collection into two parts, and since middlegames were by far the largest group, they'll appear in a separate issue.

Many games in the PDF have been shortened at one end or the other. Full versions are in the **PGN**.

Computers have been used in (re)checking all games: Stockfish 12 or 13 were used on all games, and Leela on a few, and the Lomonsov tablebases for all games with 7-pieces-or-fewer. It was interesting, and a little unsettling, to discover how much better computers are than only 5 years ago: some formerly "unclear" positions are decisive, while others which seemed so clearly in favour of one player turn out to be closer to "unclear" – as of 2021.3, the reverse may be true in 2024. Also, the newest engines tend toward more extreme evals than before – rating positions as +2 or more, which would be better described as "with initiative" when taking into account imperfect human OTB play – and I have tried to grade those positions "on a curve", regressing the evals to the mean. Postal players be warned.

Computers have also been used on **the photos**, some of which have been ***colourized***. There is some resistance to this practice among historians. As either a concession or a misguided attempt to make their life more interesting, I converted several colour pictures to Black and White, with the rationale that this issue's "average photograph" will be more "true" to the original. It is also possible that I do not fully understand this controversy.

Half the positions come from my tenure as editor of *Chess Canada*; but 47 games are new. FWIW, my favourites are games 24, 51, 53, and game 60, which shows how preposterously complicated a Rpp vs Bp position can be – look on ye mighty, and despair.

Unless stated otherwise, all annotations are by the editor, as are *most* uncredited photos. If you know the source of an uncredited photo, please email me. Ditto with any examples which you think should have been here but aren't:

cfc_newsletter_editor@chess.ca

Chess Canada 99 problems

Player	game
Abrahams, D	96
Anand, V	14, 28
Anderson, F	44, 48
Atanasov, A	30
Banks, A	49
Bark, T	98
Biyiasas, P	41
Boileau, D	47
Bolduc, S	40
Botez, Al	50
Brunner, N	85
Bykhovsky, A	34
Calugar, A	50
Capablanca, J	99
Carlsen, M	27
Cheng, B	88
Chiku-Ratte, OK	71, 77
Colas, J	97
Collins (?)	3
Cote, J	35
Coudari, C	33
Cummings, D	34
Day, L	29
Demchenko, S	71, 84
Desjardins, M	25
Djerkovic, M	55
Dlugy, M	16
Doknjas, Jn	79
Doknjas, N	37, 93
Doubleday, W	23
Dougherty, M	51
Dukic, Z	73
Dunne, F	24
Erenburg, S	65

Player	game
Felix, C	49
Fier, A	88
Fischer, R	5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Floyd, B	39
Forget, D	46
Fox, M	6
Gelfand, B	80
Georgiev, K	17
Gusev, N	63
Haessel, D	62, 91
Hambleton, A	26, 70, 72, 74
Hamilton, R	15, 31
Hayes, R	44
Hebert, J	19, 54, 94
Hergott, D	14, 83
Hirschberg, V	81
Hjartarson, J	18
Hua, L	97
Huang, Q	32
Ivanov, I	39, 40, 60, 64
Kamsky, G	59
Karavade, E	79
Karklins, A	54
Karpov, A	13
Kasparov, G	15, 16, 17
Kernazhitsky, L	92
Kleinman, M	85
Koltanowski, G	4
Korchnoi, V	18, 19
Kovalyov, A	28, 80, 86
Krnan, T	57, 78, 87, 92
Larsen, B	11
Lasker, Em	1, 2
Lenderman, A	95

Player	game
Li, C	96
Libersan, T	81
Ludwig, J	42
Maccarini, D	84
Malik, O	30
Mallinson, S	48
Maslik, M	87
Matras-Clement, A	76
Motylev, A	74
Murray, D	37, 93
Nickoloff, B	31, 51
Noorali, A	82
Noritsyn, N	61
Ouellet, MJ	77
Pacey, K	22, 36, 46
Pechenkin, V	62
Pepin, C	21
Pillsbury, HN	3
Plaskett, J	94
Plotkin, M	98
Plotkin, V	52
Preotu, R	42, 59, 65, 78
Qin, J/Z	63
Repkova, E	45
Sambuev, B	43, 56, 61, 68
Samsonkin, A	68
Sandipan, C	20
Sapozhnikov, R	58
Sarwer, J	64, 67, 90
Schmidt, J	83
Sethuraman, SP	43
Shankland, S	70
Shirov, A	21-25, 66

Player	game
Short, N	26, 55
Smilovici, E	66
Sobel, R	6
Sokolov, I	86
Southam, T	35
Spassky, B	10, 12
Spencer, R	99
Spraggett, K	29, 33, 38, 47, 53, 54, 60
Stefansson, H	91
Steinitz, W	1, 2
Suttles, D	10
Swapnil, S	69
Taimanov, M	8, 9
Tal, M	11, 12
Tarjan, J	38, 89
Thavandiran, S	69
Timman, J	13, 41
Tiviakov, S	20
Upper, J	32, 58, 73
Van Foreest, J	72
Vettese, N	57, 89
Vidmar, M	75
Villeneuve, L	36
Vilok, VG	82
Waitzkin, J	67
Wiebe, I	27
Yang, K	52, 95
Yanofsky, D	4, 75
Yoos, J	90
Yuan, Y	45
Zalys, I	7
Zhou, Q	56, 76

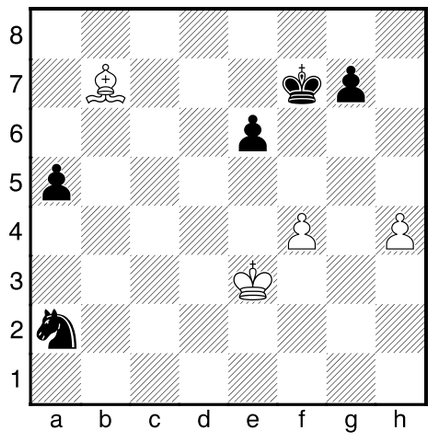
VIPs

by John Upper

This section includes games by Canadians against World Champions or their Challengers, or notable games played by world-class players in Canada. Positions are ordered chronologically.

(1)
Steinitz, William
Lasker, Emanuel

D60
World-ch05 Montreal (16), 17.05.1894



42.♔d4??
42.f5□ is a tablebase draw after the exchange of pawns; e.g. 42...♘b4 43.fxe6+ ♔xe6.

42...exf5? 43.♗d5+ and Black drops a piece... but it is *still* a an excuse me draw.

42...♔f6-+ 43.♔c5 ♘c3
Cutting off the ♔ while returning to the kingside.

44.♔c4
44.♗f3 ♔f5 45.♔c4 ♘d5-+.

44...♘e2 (or 44...♘d5-+)
45.♔b5 ♘xf4 46.♔xa5 ♘g6!
47.h5 ♘f4 48.♗f3 ♔f5
48...♔g5 49.♔b4 ♘xh5 wins too, but Lasker's way is less crude.

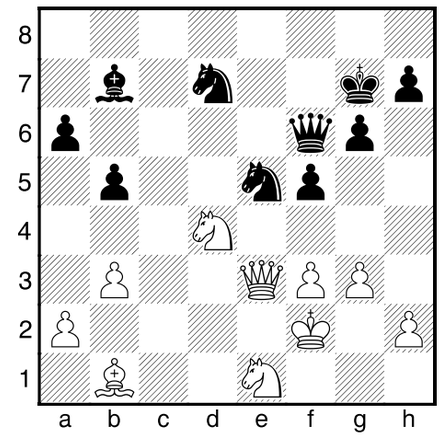
49.♔b4 e5 50.♔c3 e4
51.♗d1 e3 52.♗f3 ♔g5
The ♘ and ♙ cut off the white ♔.

53.♔c2 ♔h4 54.♔d1 ♔g3
0-1

Steinitz - Lasker
1894

(2)
Steinitz, William
Lasker, Emanuel

D67
World-ch05 Montreal (18), 22.05.1894



How should White activate his worst−placed piece?

40.♘g2??
Other moves by this ♘ are bad for the same reason. ⌓40.h3 or 40.♔f1=.

Montreal hosted the last third of the match.

40...♘c6?
40...♗xf3! wins a clear pawn, since ♘xf3 allows a fork on g4.

41.♘e6+ ♔g8 42.♗c2 ♕e5
42...♘ce5!∓ again, comboing through f3 and g4.

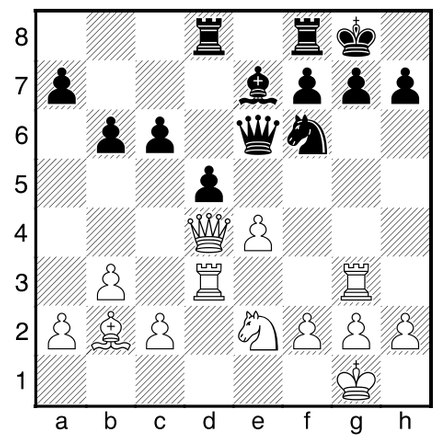
43.♘gf4 ♕xe3+ 44.♔xe3 ♘b4 45.♗b1 ♘e5 46.♘d4 ♔f7 47.a3 ♘d5+ 48.♘xd5 ♗xd5 49.♗d3 ♔e7 50.♗e2 ♔d6 51.f4 ♘d7 52.g4 fxg4 53.♗xg4 ♘b6 54.h4 ♗b7 55.♗e6 ♘d5+ 56.♗xd5 ♔xd5 57.♘f3 ♗c8 58.♘g5 h5 59.♘e4 ♗f5 60.♘c3+ ♔c5 61.♘e4+ ♔d5

½-½

(3)
Pillsbury, Harry Nelson − Collins (?)

C62
Blindfold simul Montreal, 03.11.1900
Notes: Stephen Wright

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 d6 5.d4 ♗d7 6.♘c3 ♘xd4 7.♘xd4 exd4 8.♗xd7+ ♕xd7 9.♕xd4 ♗e7 10.b3 0-0 11.♗b2 c6 12.♖ad1 ♕c7 13.♖fe1 b6 14.♖e3 ♖ad8 15.♖g3 ♕d7 16.♖dd3 ♕e6 17.♘e2 d5?



Looks like a good central counter, but White's attack is faster; 17...g6 is necessary.

sous veneer

Original match postcard.

18.♘f4?
Right idea, wrong move order.
⌓18.♖xg7+!:
18...♔xg7 19.♘f4□ ♕xe4 20.♖g3++- ♔h6 21.♕d2 ♗b4 22.♗xf6! ♗xd2 23.♗g7#;
18...♔h8 19.♕e3□ ♔xg7 *(19...♖g8 20.♖xg8+ ♖xg8 21.exd5+-)* 20.♕g5+□ ♔h8 21.♘f4□ ♖g8 *(21...♕d6 22.♗e5□+-)* 22.♘xe6 ♖xg5 23.♘xg5 ♔g8+-
− Stephen Wright.

18...♕xe4□ 19.♖xg7+! ♔xg7??
Black should decline the sacrifice with 19...♔h8!, when 20.♖xh7+ *(20.♕xe4? dxe4-+)* 20...♔xh7 21.♖h3+ ♔g7 22.♖g3+ ♔h7□= is only a perpetual; the key difference is that in this line Black's missing h7 pawn gives the ♔ an extra square to avoid mate.

20.♖g3+ ♔h8
20...♕g6 21.♘h5+! ♔h8 22.♖xg6 fxg6 23.♘xf6 ♗xf6 24.♕xf6+□ ♖xf6 25.♗xf6+ ♔g8 26.♗xd8+-;

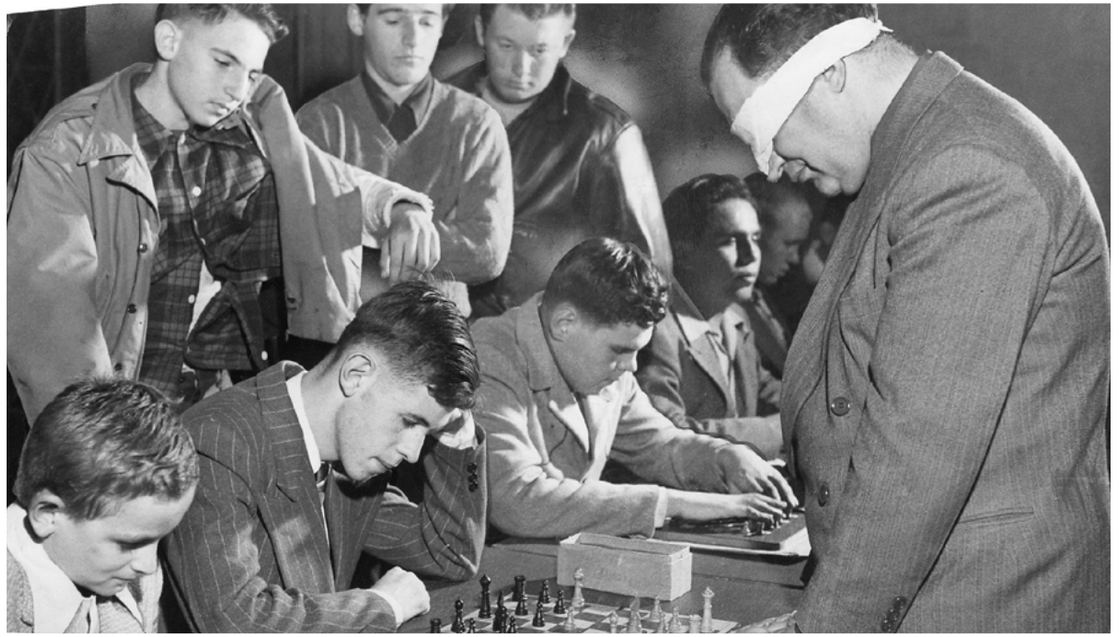
20...♔h6 21.♕d2 *(21.♘e2!?+-)* 21...♗b4 22.♗xf6 ♗xd2 23.♖h3#.

21.♕xf6+ ♗xf6 22.♗xf6#
Pillsbury's mate, so named by Renaud and Kahn in their 1953 book *The Art of the Checkmate*.
− Stephen Wright

1-0

Pillsbury

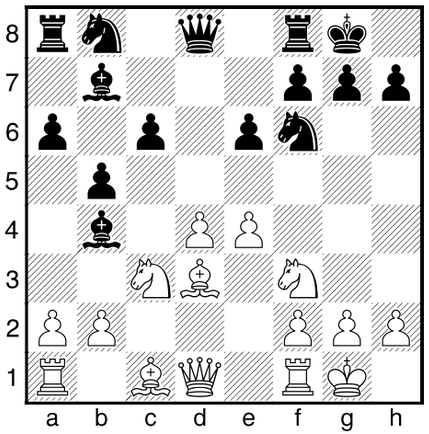
World-class player and blindfold simul master.



(4)
Koltanowski, George
Yanofsky, Daniel

D45
simul exhibition Winnipeg, 1938

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3 d5 5.♘f3 c6 6.♗d3 0-0 7.0-0 dxc4 8.♗xc4 b5?! 9.♗d3 a6?! 10.e4! ♗b7



11.♕e2!?
I wonder if Koltanowski may have played this — rather than immediately going for the classic ♗xh7+ which he must have seen — to give his 13 year old opponent a chance!?

⌓11.e5+- ♘d5 *(11...♘fd7 12.♗xh7++-)* 12.♗xh7++- ♔xh7 13.♘g5+ ♔g6 14.♘xd5 ♕xd5 *(14...cxd5 15.h4! (or 15.♕g4) 15...♘c6 16.♕d3+ f5 17.h5+ and mates with ♕h3+ or wins the ♕ with ♘xe6+.)* 15.♕d3+ f5 16.♕h3 threat ♕h7# can't be stopped with ...♖h8 since Black's ♖s are not connected. 16...f4 17.g4! (or ♕h7+ then h4).

11...c5 12.e5 ♘fd7 13.a3
⌓13.♗xh7++-.

13...cxd4 14.axb4 dxc3 15.bxc3 ♕c7 16.♗xh7+ ♔h8
16...♔xh7 17.♘g5+ ♔g6 18.♕d3+ f5 19.♕g3 *(19.exf6+ is also winning, but less clear cut.)* 19...♕xe5 20.♗f4□+-.

17.♗e4 ♘c6 18.♘g5 g6 19.♕g4 ♘dxe5 20.♕h4+ ♔g7 21.♘h3!?
21.♕h7+ ♔f6 22.f4 ♘g4 *(22...♘c4 23.♗xg6!+- or 23.f5!+-)* 23.♕h4 ♔g7 24.♗b2! or 24.♕xg4 both win.

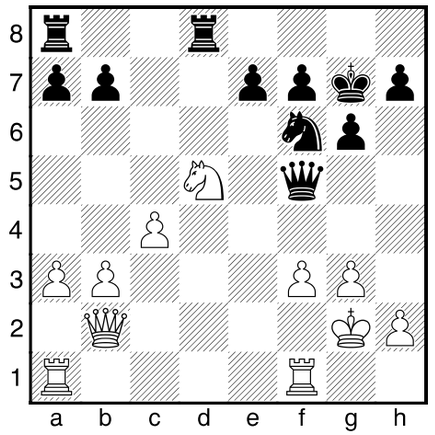
21...f5 22.♗h6+ ♔g8 23.♗xf8 fxe4 24.♗c5 ♕g7 25.♕xe4 ♘d8 26.♕d4 ♘dc6 27.♕d6 ♕f7 28.f4 ♘c4 29.♕d3 ♗c8 30.♖f3 e5 31.fxe5 ♗f5 32.♖xf5! gxf5 33.♘f2 ♖d8 34.♕g3+ ♔h7 35.♖xa6 ♘4xe5 36.♕h4+ ♔g6 37.♗d4!? (37.♕xd8!)
37...♕d5 38.♕g3+ ♔f7 39.♕f4 ♘d7 40.g4

1-0

(5)
Sobel, Robert
Fischer, Bobby

B70
Canadian Open Montreal (2), 26.08.1956

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.g3 ♗g7 4.♗g2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.♘c3 c5 7.e4 cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♘c6 9.♘de2 ♗d7 10.b3 ♕c8 11.♗b2 ♗h3 12.f3 ♗xg2 13.♔xg2 d5 14.exd5 ♖d8 15.♕c1 ♘b4 16.a3 ♘bxd5 17.♘xd5 ♘xd5 18.♗xg7 ♔xg7 19.c4 ♕e6 20.♕b2+ ♘f6 21.♘f4 ♕f5 22.♘d5 (22.♖ae1!±)



What would Bobby Fischer play?

22...e6??
Is what Bobby Fischer *did* play...

... he *should* have played 22... e5!= , blocking the long diagonal and unpinning the ♘f6. White has no time to lever open the f−file: 23.f4? ♘xd5 24.cxd5 *(24. fxe5?? ♘e3+-+)* 24...♕e4+∓.

23.g4□+- ♕g5 24.h4□ ♕xh4 25.♖h1□ ♕g5 26.♖xh7+□+-
Essential: without this White has just given a pawn and weakened his ♔.

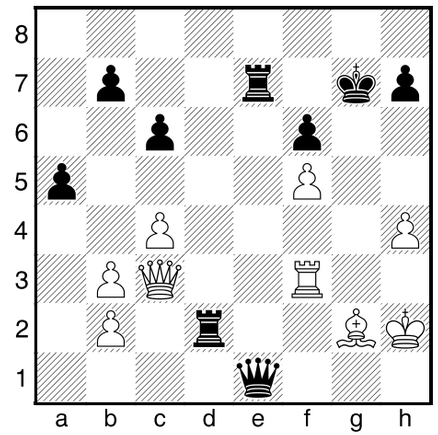
26...♔f8
26...♔xh7 27.♘xf6+□ and ♘e4+ wins the ♕ and stops ...♖d2+.

27.♕xf6

1-0

(6)
Fischer, Bobby
Fox, Maurice

A05
Canadian Open Montreal (4), 28.08.1956



Find the quickest win.

41...♕xh4+!
41...♖xg2+! also wins, but more slowly.

42.♖h3 ♖xg2+! 43.♔xg2 ♖e2+ 44.♔g1?
⌓44.♔h1 ♕e4+ and ...♕b1+ is the fastest mate.

44...♕e1+?
It *is* possible to love ♖ endings too much... or maybe White actually did play 44.♔h1!? ⌓44...♕f2+ and mate next.

45.♕xe1 ♖xe1+ 46.♔f2 ♖b1 47.♔e3 ♖xb2 48.♔d4 b6 49.♔c3 ♖f2 50.♖h5 ♖f3+ 51.♔b2 ♖g3 52.♖h2 ♖g5

53.♖f2 ♔f7 54.♔c3 ♔e7 55.♖e2+ ♔d7 56.♖d2+ ♔c7 57.♖f2 ♔d6 58.♔d4 ♖g4+ 59.♔d3 ♔e5 60.♖h2 ♖g3+ 61.♔c2 ♖g7 62.♖h6 ♔xf5
Less than two months later, Fischer played his "Game of the Century" win over Donald Byrne.

0-1

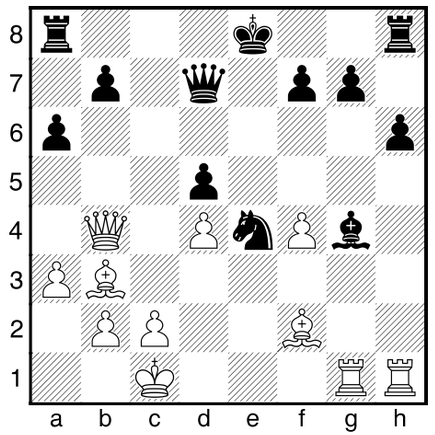
***Bobby Fischer**, casual game with 1908 Canadian Champion **Joseph Sawyer**. CFC President **John Prentice**, **Sidney Bernstein**, and **Larry Evans** watch.*

(Montreal Gazette photo)

(7)
Fischer, Bobby
Zalys, Ignas

C33
Montreal simul, 23.02.1964

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♗c4 ♘f6 4.♘c3 c6 5.♗b3 d5 6.exd5 cxd5 7.d4 ♗d6 8.♘ge2 f3 9.gxf3 ♘h5 10.♗e3 ♗b4 11.a3 ♗a5 12.♕d3 a6 13.0-0-0 ♗e6 14.♘g3 ♘xg3 15.hxg3 h6 16.f4 ♗xc3 17.♕xc3 ♘d7 18.g4 ♗xg4 19.♖dg1 ♘f6 20.♗f2 ♘e4 21.♕b4 ♕d7



What would Bobby Fischer play?

A Back and forth King's Gambit has resulted in a crazy position where White has only one good move...

22.♗h4??
Is what Bobby Fischer actually did play; his attack on e7 creates threats of both ♖xg4 and ♗xd5.

22.♗a4?? pins and... loses to 22...b5-+;

He *should* have played 22.♖xg4□, with complications:

22...♘xf2 23.♖g5!! Threat is ♖e5+ then ♖xd5. (23.♖e1+? ♘e4 24.♖xg7 0-0-0∞) 23...0-0-0 24.♖xd5 ♕g4 25.♖e1+- material is equal, but White has a huge initiative against the Black ♔ and (maybe?) the more dangerous passed pawn;

22...♕xg4 23.♗xd5 ♕xf4+□ *(23...♘xf2?? 24.♖e1+□+-)* 24.♔b1 ♘d6□∞.

22...a5□-+
22...f5?? 23.♗xd5+-;
22...g5? 23.♗xg5! a5 *(23...♘xg5 24.fxg5+-)* 24.♕e1□∓

23.♕e1□
23.♕b6 ♖a6 traps the ♕.

23...f5!
Not the computer's top choice (...00), but an excellent safe move, defending everything and killing White's open lines.

From here on, every move marked by an "!" is SF12's top choice:

24.♔b1 b5! 25.♖g3 h5! 26.♗g5 ♔f7! 27.♖e3 ♖he8! 28.c3 ♖a6! 29.♗c2 ♖ae6! 30.♔a1? ♘xg5!

0-1

***Bobby Fischer**, "the Mozart of chess" during his 1964 Montreal simul.*

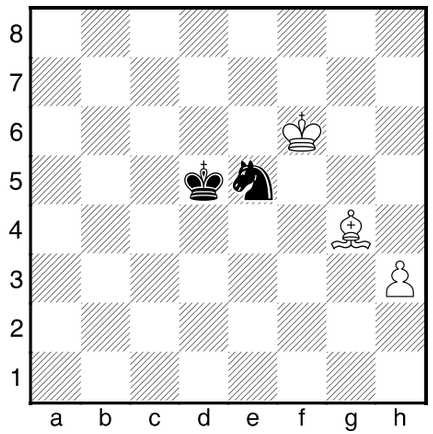
CHESS EXPERT: Bobby Fischer, "the Mozart of chess", as he played 56 Canadian chess fans simultaneously in Sir George Williams University recently. He made an average of a move every six seconds. The 20-year-old expert from Brooklyn has captured the United States championship six times.

(Montreal Gazette photo)

(8)
Fischer, Robert
Taimanov, Mark E

B44
Candidates qf Vancouver (2), 18.05.1971

81.♔xf6



81...♔e4??

Kasparov writes in *MGP* v.5:
"Undoubtedly the most terrible nightmare in the chess biography of Mark Taimanov. Black had a simple choice of four moves, three of which led to a quick draw, and one to an equally quick loss. And this was the one that Taimanov made..."

White draws with:
81...♔d4 82.♗c8 ♘f3 83.♗b7 ♘h4□ 84.♔g5 ♔e5□ 85.♔xh4 ♔f6=;

or White can draw with:
81...♔d6 82.♗e2 ♘d7+ 83.♔g7 ♔e7 84.h4 ♘f6 85.♗f3 ♘e8+ 86.♔g6 ♔f8 87.♗d5 ♘g7 88.♗c4 ♘h5!=;

as well as the elegant:
81...♘d3
82.h4 ♘f4□
83.♔f5 ♔d6!
84.♔xf4 ♔e7=
.

82.♗c8□+-
82.♗e6?
♘f3□=
83.♔g6 ♔f4
84.♔h5 ♘g5
85.h4 ♘f3=
and ♘xh4.

82...♔f4
82...♘f3 fails to 83.♗b7+□ ♔f4 84.♗xf3 ♔xf3 85.♔g5□+-.

83.h4□ ♘f3
83...♘g4+ 84.♔g7+- threatening h5 and ♗xg4.

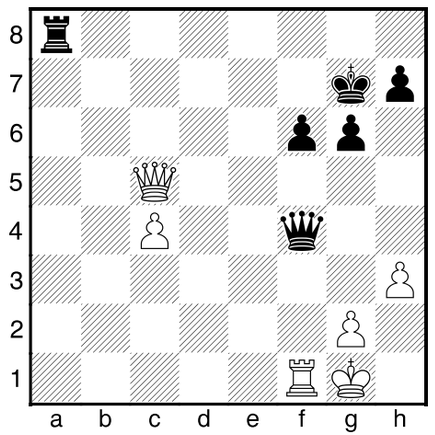
84.h5 ♘g5 85.♗f5
85.h6 ♘h7+ 86.♔g7 ♘g5 87.♔g6 *zugzwang*.

85...♘f3 86.h6 ♘g5 87.♔g6 ♘f3 88.h7 ♘e5+ 89.♔f6

1-0

Bobby Fischer *and* ***Mark Taimanov*** *inspect the set with Arbiter Bodizar Kazic before their 1971 Candidates Match in Vancouver. (UPI photos)*

(9)
Taimanov, Mark
Fischer, Robert
D80
Candidates qf Fischer-Taimanov Vancouver (5), 27.05.1971



Can White win the f6 pawn if Black goes ...♕e4?

44...♕e4!?
Almost everything draws, but this gives White a chance...

45.♕c7+ ♔h6 46.♖xf6??
... to blunder. Almost anything else draws easily.

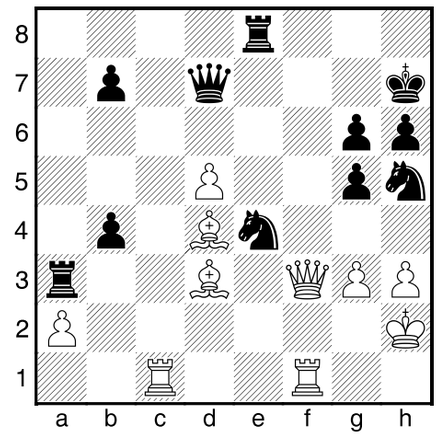
46...♕d4+
46...♕d4+ 47.♖f2 ♖a1+-+ wins the ♖.

If horse goes here...?
Taimanov and Fischer review a game on Bobby's pocket set.

That was Fischer's 5th win *en route* to his +6 =0 −0 whitewash.

0-1

(10)
Spassky, Boris
Suttles, Duncan
B07
Canadian Open Vancouver (6), 29.08.1971



31...♖xd3?
31...♘d2? 32.♕f7+ ♕xf7 33.♖xf7+ ♔g8 34.♗xg6 ♖e2+ 35.♗f2□+-;

31...♘f4!!-+ 32.gxf4 ♘d2 33.♕g3 ♘xf1+ 34.♖xf1 ♕xd5! 35.♖d1 ♕xd4 36.♗xg6+ ♔xg6 37.♖xd4 ♖e2+! 38.♕g2 ♖axa2!-+.

32.♕xd3± ♘hxg3
32...♘exg3 33.♖fe1 ♖xe1 34.♖xe1 ♘f5±.

33.♖fe1! ♕d6 34.♔g1
34.♔g2!.

34...h5 35.♗b2 g4 36.♕d4??
36.hxg4 ♕f4∞.

36...♘f5□-+ 37.♕d3 gxh3??

***Spassky - Suttles**, 1971 Canadian Open. (BC Chess History)*

37...♕b6+!-+ White has to give a piece to avoid mate;

37...♘h4 38.hxg4 ♕f4-+.

38.♖xe4 ♖xe4 39.♕xe4 h2+??
39...♕b6+□ 40.♗d4□ ♘xd4 41.♕e7+ ♔h6 42.♕e3+=.

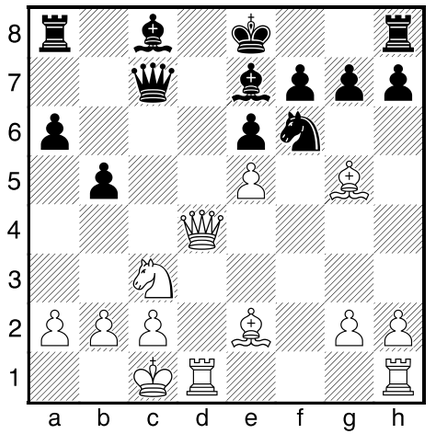
40.♔g2 ♕g3+ 41.♔h1 ♕f2 42.♖c7+ ♔h6 43.♗c1+□
Black gets mated.

1-0

(11)
Tal, Mikhail
Larsen, Bent
B66
Montreal 1979 (5), 16.04.1979

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗g5 e6 7.♕d2 ♗e7 8.0-0-0 a6 9.f4 ♕c7 10.♗e2 ♘xd4 11.♕xd4 b5 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5

20 year earlier...
Tal *vs* ***Larsen*** *at 1959 Zurich Candidates, with spectator.*



What happens on ...♘d5, ♗xe7 ♘xc3?

13...♘d5 14.♗xe7 ♘xc3

15.♗f3! ♘xd1??
15...♘e2+□ This deflection saves the ♖a8 and gives Black just enough time to bail out to a worse ending: 16.♗xe2 ♕xe7 17.♗f3 ♗b7 18.♗xb7 ♕xb7 19.♕d6 ♖c8 *(19...♕e7?? 20.♕c6++-)* 20.♖d2± If ...♕c6, White's ♖ activity will probably be enough to win a pawn, but that might not be enough to win a multi major piece ending.

16.♗d6□+-
Saving the ♗, gaining a tempo on the ♕, and keeping Black's ♔ stuck in the center.

16...♕c4
16...♕a7 17.♗c5 ♕d7 18.♖xd1 ♕xd4 19.♖xd4+- and there's no good defence to both ♗c6+ and ♗xa8. 19...♖b8 20.♗c6+.

17.♕b6!
17.♖xd1? ♕xd4±.

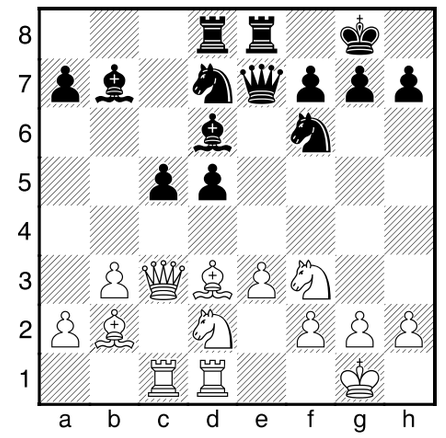
17...♘f2 18.♗c6+ ♗d7 19.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 20.♕b7+ ♔d8

21.♕xa8+ ♕c8 22.♕a7!
Threatening mate and the ♘f2.

1-0

(12)
Spassky, Boris
Tal, Mikhail
E14
Montreal 1979 (10), 24.04.1979

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.e3 ♗b7 5.♗d3 d5 6.b3 ♗d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.♗b2 ♘bd7 9.♘bd2 ♕e7 10.♖c1 ♖ad8 11.♕c2 c5 12.cxd5 exd5 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.♕c3 ♖fe8 15.♖fd1 (15.♖fe1!? would discourage ...d4, but Black might try 15...c4!? 16.bxc4?! ♗b4∓)

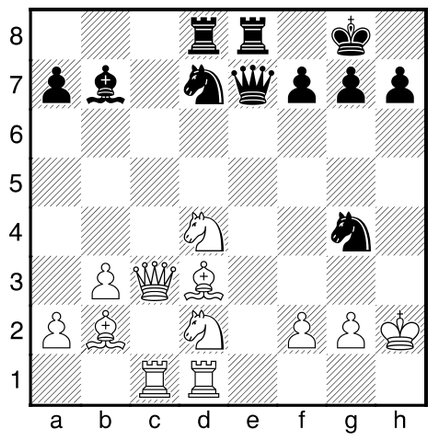


What happens on 15...d4!?

15...d4?! 16.exd4! cxd4 17.♕a5?
Spassky blinks... or nods.

Clearly not, 17.♕xd4? ♘c5∓ and there will be trouble on the d−file.

Instead, White must take, or the d−pawn cuts his team in half. After 17.♘xd4□ Black has only one serious continuation; not this 17...♖c8? 18.♘c4±, or this 17...♘g4?! 18.♘f5!± and White's attack is more deadly! Instead, 17...♗xh2+ is the Tal move that would frighten anyone who knew him as well as Spassky. After 18.♔xh2 ♘g4+ we reach the position where the real analysis should begin:



But here, *both* of White's reasonable moves — ♔g1 and ♔g3 — give an advantage:

19.♔g1?! ♕h4 20.♗xh7+!! *(20.♘2f3? ♕xf2+ 21.♔h1 ♘de5↑)* 20...♔xh7 21.♕h3!± Black won't have enough activity for the pawn.

19.♔g3! boldly plays for the win:

a) 19...h5 20.♘f5□+-;

b) 19...♕e5+ 20.f4 ♕e3+ 21.♘2f3!:
21...♕f2+ 22.♔h3□ (22.♔xg4? ♗xf3+□-+) 22...♖e3 (22...♘e3 23.♖d2+-) 23.♖d2+-;

21... ♗xf3 22.♗xh7+! There are lots of sidelines here, but in all of them White ends up with an extra pawn and the more active ♖s; e.g. 22...♔xh7 23.♕xe3 ♖xe3 24.♘xf3 ♘gf6 25.♗xf6 gxf6 26.♖c7 ♖e7 27.♖xa7+-;

c) 19...♕d6+ 20.f4□ ♘df6 21.♕c5! ♖e3+ 22.♘2f3+- when tactics using the ♘−fork on e4 don't work:
22...♖xd3 23.♕xd6 ♖xf3+ 24.♘xf3 ♘e4+ 25.♔xg4+-;

22...♕xc5 23.♖xc5 ♖xd3 24.♖xd3 ♘e4+ 25.♔xg4 ♘xc5 26.♖d2+- White is still up a piece.

17...♘e5□-+ 18.♘xe5 ♗xe5 19.♘c4 ♖d5!
19...♗xh2+! works immediately, but Black needs the ♖ in the attack, so this transposes.

20.♕d2 ♗xh2+! 21.♔xh2 ♖h5+!
21...♘g4+ 22.♔g3 ♖g5 23.f4 ♘e3+ 24.fxg5 ♕c7+ also wins.

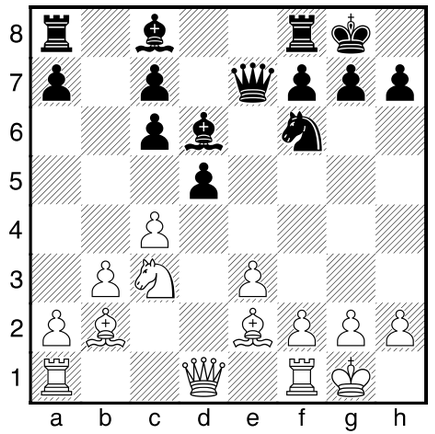
22.♔g1 ♘g4 23.♕f4 ♕h4
and White's five pieces on the queenside are embarrassingly useless. **0-1**

(13)
Timman, Jan
Karpov, Anatoly
A28
Montreal 1979 (11), 25.04.1979

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e5 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.e3 ♗e7 5.d4 exd4 6.♘xd4 0-0 7.♘xc6 bxc6 8.♗e2 d5 9.0-0 ♗d6 10.b3 ♕e7 (Threat: ...♕e5.) **11.♗b2**

#2 and #1 *World's top two,* ***Tal*** *and* ***Karpov****, =1st in Montreal.*

(Montreal Gazette photo?)



White has a safe position in an e3 English, with potential play on the c−file. What should Black do?

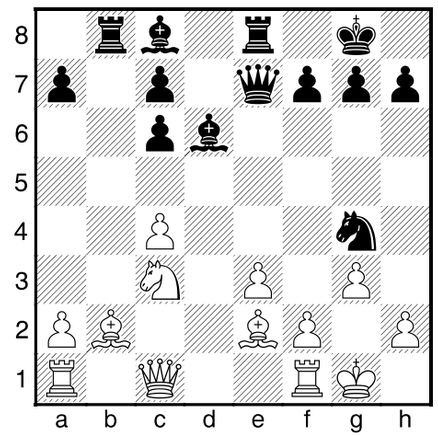
11...dxc4!
Black voluntarily degrades his pawn structure, but if ♗xc4 Black gains time and freedom for a kingside attack. Since this game, White has typically preferred to exchange on d5 first.

12.bxc4
12.♗xc4! gives up any hope of an advantage, but was better than the game, since White will not have to defend the ♗b2. 12...♘g4 13.g3□ ♘xh2!? *(13...♘e5!?)* 14.♔xh2 ♕h4+ 15.♔g2 ♕h3+□ 16.♔g1 ♗g4 17.♗e2□ ♗xg3□ 18.fxg3 ♕xg3+ 19.♔h1= and Black forces a repetition.

12...♖b8! 13.♕c1
13.♖b1? ♖xb2 14.♖xb2 ♕e5-+.

13...♘g4 14.g3
14.h3 ♕e5 15.g3 ♘xf2!-+.

14...♖e8



15.♘d1
15.♗f3 ♕f6 16.♗g2 ♕h6 17.h4 *(17.h3 ♘xe3! 18.fxe3 ♗xh3-+)* 17...g5! 18.c5 gxh4! 19.e4 ♕h5! 20.cxd6 hxg3 21.♖d1 gxf2+ 22.♔f1 ♗a6+ 23.♘e2 ♖xb2! Defelcting the ♕ so there is no ♕g5+ 24.♕xb2 ♕h2 and ...♕g1# 0-1 Khismatullin,D (2552)−Tomashevsky,E (2523) Serpukhov, 2004.

15...♘xh2! 16.c5
16.♔xh2 ♕h4+ 17.♔g1 ♗xg3 18.fxg3 ♕xg3+ 19.♔h1 ♖e4-+.

16...♘xf1! 17.cxd6 ♘xg3□
The desperado Timman said he missed.

18.fxg3 ♕xd6 19.♔f2 ♕h6 20.♗d4 ♕h2+
"The fact that the game continued can be explained only by Timman's unwillingness to resign so early." − Kasparov

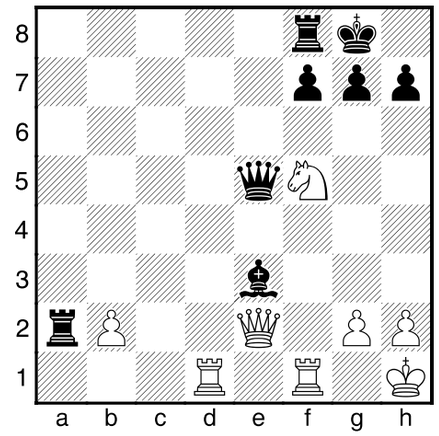
21.♔e1 ♕xg3+ 22.♔d2 ♕g2! 23.♘b2 ♗a6 24.♘d3 ♗xd3! 25.♔xd3 ♖bd8 26.♗f1 ♕e4+ 27.♔c3 c5! 28.♗xc5 ♕c6 29.♔b3 ♖b8+ 30.♔a3 ♖e5 31.♗b4 ♕b6

0-1

Seriously?
An eidetic memory and memory booster pills?

I TRUST MEMORY PLUS
- Viswanathan Anand, International Chess Grandmaster
FACT 1 : 800 BC
Mention of the Memory enhancement properties of the plant BRAHMI in Atharveda.
FACT 2 : 1962
Commencement of analysis of Brahmi by Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow for isolation and identification of the effective molecules.

(14)
Anand, Viswanathan (2345)
Hergott, Deen (2240)
B33
Olympiad Thessaloniki (4), 22.11.1984

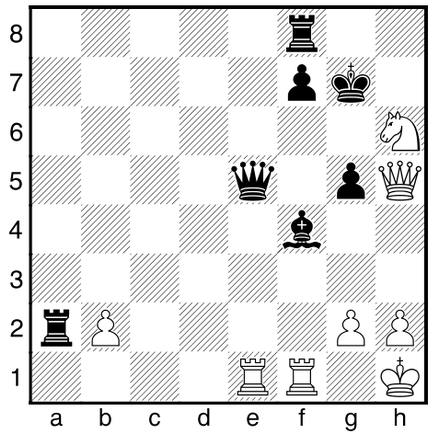


Both sides play this sharp position very well, and I suspect the effort put at least one of them in time trouble.

27...♗f4□ 28.♕g4! g5□ 29.♖de1! h5!
29...♕f6? 30.♖xf4+-;

29...♕c7? 30.h4 f6 31.♖e7+-

30.♘h6+! ♔g7□ 31.♕xh5



Defend this against a young Indian player named "Anand"*.

31...♕xb2?
Wins a pawn and threatens g2, but White's tactics hit first.

31...♕d5? 32.♖xf4+-;

31...♕a5? Looks good, keeping the ♕ defended and attacking ♖e1 prevents ♖xf4, but... 32.♘xf7!! ♖xf7 33.♖e6□+- White is down a piece, but Black will lose more trying to prevent mate. 33...g4 Defends h6 and the fifth rank, *(33...♖a1? 34.♕h6+ #2; 33...♖f6? 34.♖e7+ #2)* 34.♖g6+! ♔f8 35.♕h8+ ♔e7 and Black must lose in the major piece crossfire: 36.♕c8!+- threats include ♖e6#, ♖g8, and (if the Black ♕ moves) ♖e1+. *(36.♕h4+* is another win: *36...♔d7 37.♕xg4+ ♕f5 38.h3* and the pins win.*)* 36...♕d5 37.♖e1+ ♗e5 38.♖g8+-;

31...♕f6□ 32.♘g4! ♕d6!? *(32...♕g6 33.♕h3±)* 33.♖xf4!? gxf4=.

32.♘f5+□+-
32.♕h3? ♕xg2+=.

32...♔g8
32...♔f6!? 33.♖g1! defending the mate on g2, threatening ♘e7 and ♕h6#. *(33.♕g4? ♕xg2+!* Black bails out to a drawn ending.*)* Δ33...♔xf5 34.g4+ ♔f6 35.♕h6#.

33.♕g4!
Defends g2 and threatens ♖xf4.

33...♕d2
33...♕b4 34.♘e7+ ♔g7 35.♘d5+-;

33...♕b8 34.h4+-.

34.♖d1!
34.h4!

34...♕b4 35.♖d4! ♕b8
35...♖f2 36.♖fd1!+-.

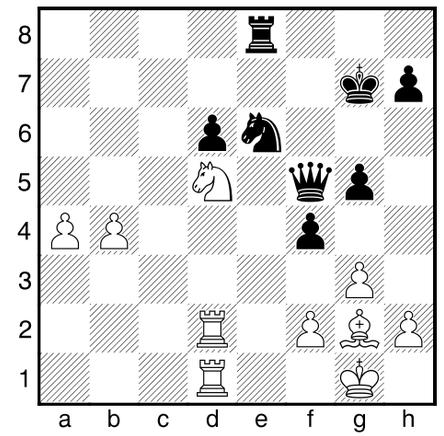
36.h3! ♔h7 37.♖dxf4! gxf4 38.♕g7#

1-0

(15)
Kasparov, Garry
Hamilton, Robert

A39
Cannes simul FRA (10), 14.02.1988
Notes: Stephen Wright

34.♖cd2



34...f3?
Black has no immediate way to take advantage of this wedge,

(photo: R.Hamilton)

After the chess, more chess.

*1988 Saint John organizer **Robert Hamilton** plays blitz winner **Mikhail Tal**.*

whereas the move closes lines, gives White use of the e3 square, and expends a vital tempo. h7-h5-h4 is more to the point.

35.♗f1! h5 36.a5 h4 37.♘e3□+- ♕e4
editor − Black has no time to get to the h−file: 37...♕h7 38.♖xd6 hxg3 39.♖d7++-.

38.♖xd6 hxg3 39.hxg3 ♕xb4 40.a6 ♖f8 41.a7
41.♖xe6 is also winning.

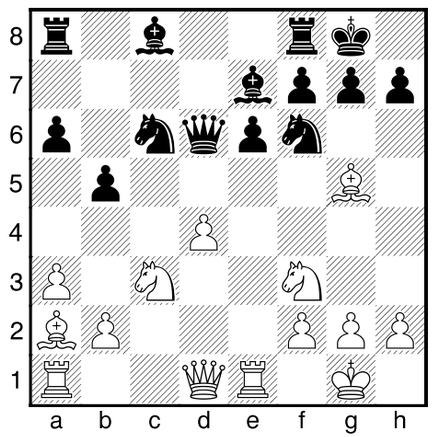
41...♕a5 42.♖a6 ♕xa6 43.♗xa6

1-0

(16)
Kasparov, Garry
Dlugy, Maxim

D26
World Blitz Championship
Saint John (2), 19.02.1988

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e6 4.e3 ♘c6 5.d4 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.♗c4 cxd4 8.exd4 ♗e7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♖e1 ♘f6 11.a3 a6 12.♗a2 ♕d6 13.♗g5 b5? (13...♖d8!±)



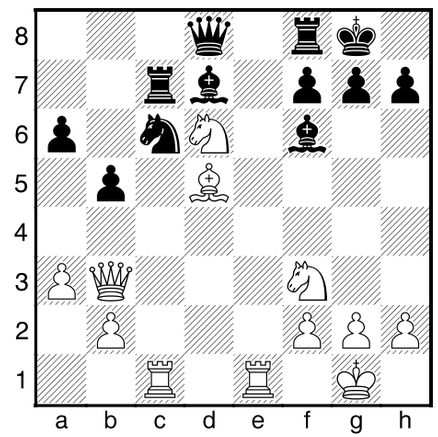
14.♗xf6?!±
Kasparov misses his shot... IQP positions can stump even the best!

14.d5!!+-:
a) 14...exd5 15.♘xd5! ♗e6 *(15...♘xd5 16.♗xd5 ♗e6 (16...♗xg5 17.♗xf7++-) 17.♗xc6+-)* 16.♗xf6 gxf6 17.♘xf6++-;

b) 14...♘a5 15.dxe6 ♗xe6 16.♕xd6 ♗xd6 17.♗xe6+-;

c) 14...♘xd5 15.♘xd5 ♕d8 *(15...♗xg5 16.♘f6+ ♗xf6 17.♕xd6+-)* 16.♘xe7+ ♘xe7 17.♕xd8 ♖xd8 18.♗xe7+-.

14...♗xf6 15.♘e4 ♕d8 16.d5 exd5 17.♗xd5 ♗d7 18.♖c1 ♖c8 19.♘d6 ♖c7 20.♕b3



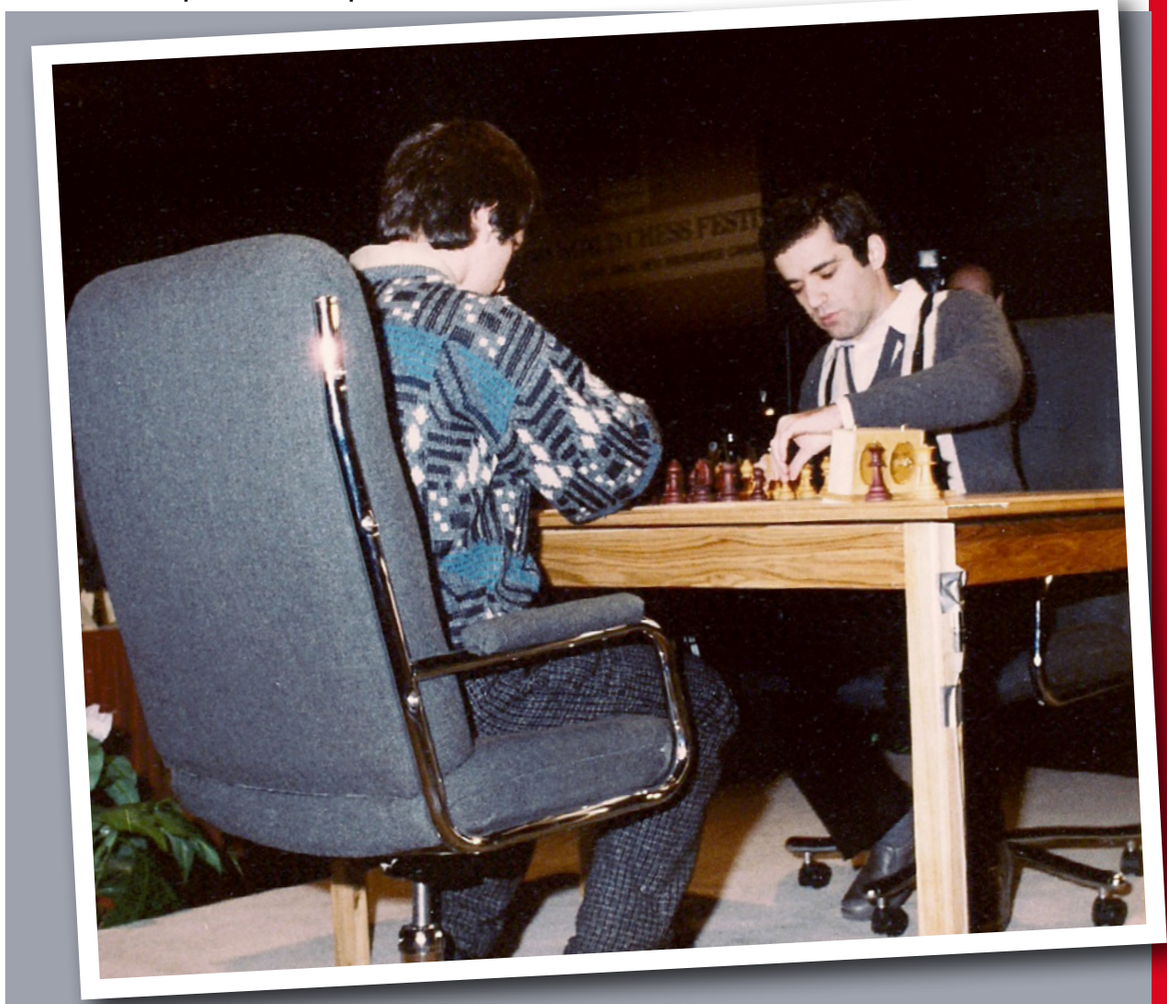
20... ♘e5?
20...♗e8? 21.♘xe8 ♖xe8 22.♖xe8+! ♕xe8 23.♕c2□+-;

20...♘a5? 21.♘xf7□+- ♘xb3 22.♘xd8+ ♔h8 23.♖xc7+-;

20...♗e6□ blocks the attack on f7, and although it undefends the ♘c6, it also pins one of the two attackers, so the ♘ is not really hanging. 21.♗xe6 *(21.♖xe6? ♘d4!-+)* 21...♕xd6□= and Black catches up in development.

21.♘xe5□+- ♗xe5 22.♘xf7 ♗xh2+ 23.♔xh2 ♕h4+ 24.♔g1 ♖xc1 25.♖xc1 ♗e8 26.♘e5+ ♔h8 27.♕e3

1-0



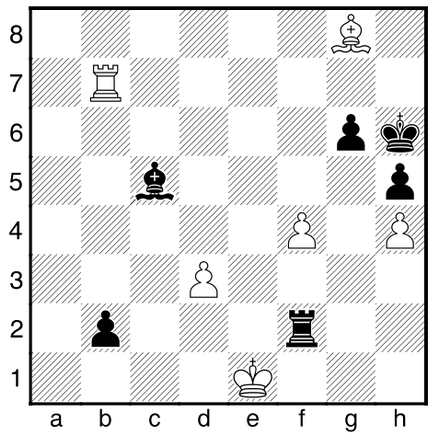
... and he was never seen again.

Georgiev *defeated* ***Kasparov*** *in the first World Blitz Championship at the* ***1988 World Chess Festival*** *in Saint John...*

(photo: R.Hamilton)

(17)
Georgiev, Kiril
Kasparov, Garry
A38
World Blitz Championship
Staint John (3), 20.02.1988
Notes: Stephen Wright

51.♗g8



51...g5??
Kasparov deals with the immediate mate, only to blunder into a second one. 51...b1♕+ 52.♖xb1 ♖xf4∓ would maintain Black's advantage.

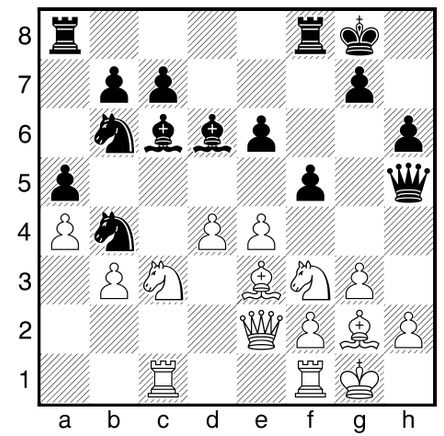
52.hxg5+ ♔g6 53.♗h7#

1-0

(18)
Korchnoi, Viktor
Hjartarson, Johann
E05
Candidates m 1/8 final-2
Saint John (8), 1988

This was the final game of the Candidates Match between Viktor Korchnoi and Johann Hjartarson, who won +3 =3 −2.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.d4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♗g2 ♗e7 5.♘f3 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.♕c2 a6 8.a4 ♗d7 9.♕xc4 ♗c6 10.♗f4 a5 11.♘c3 ♘a6 12.♖ae1 ♘b4 13.e4 ♘d7 14.♖a1 ♗d6 15.♗e3 ♘c2 16.♗g5 ♘b6 17.♕d3 ♘b4 18.♕e2 ♕e8 19.b3 f5 20.♖ac1 h6 21.♗e3 ♕h5



What happens after 22.d5?

22.d5?

⌓22.♖fe1 or 22.e5 ♗e7∓ Gives Black d5 and a free hand to push on the kingside.

22...fxe4□
22...exd5? 23.e5!±;

22...f4?? 23.♗xb6+-.

23.dxc6??
Terrible, and hard to explain; perhaps an overreaction after finding that d5 made his position worse.

Korchnoi v Hjartarson
1987 Belgrade

23.♘xe4□ ♘6xd5! *(23...exd5? 24.♘xd6+-)* 24.♗c5∓.

23...exf3□-+ 24.♕d1
Maybe this is what White had miscalculated: 24.♗xf3 ♕xf3□ 25.♕xf3 ♖xf3 26.cxb7 ♖b8□ *(26...♖af8? 27.♘b5∓)* 27.♗xb6 cxb6 28.♘b5 with threats on d6 and c8, but now 28...♗c5-+ or 28...♗f8-+.

24...bxc6
24...♘xc6!-+.

25.♗xb6 cxb6 26.♕xd6 fxg2 27.♖fd1 ♕f5 28.♕d2 ♘d3 29.♖c2 ♘e5 30.♕e2 ♖ad8 31.♔xg2 ♘f3 32.♖xd8 ♖xd8 33.♖c1 ♘d4 34.♕e3 c5 35.♖d1 ♕c2 36.h4 ♖f8 37.♖c1? ♖xf2+! 38.♕xf2 ♕xc1

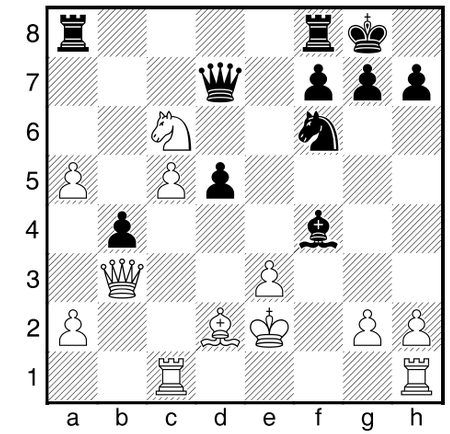
Korchnoi qualified for one more Candidates matches, after this, getting eliminated by Jan Timman in the second round.

0-1

(19)
Hebert, Jean (2415)
Korchnoi, Viktor (2594)

E14
Quebec op Montreal (6), 21.07.2004

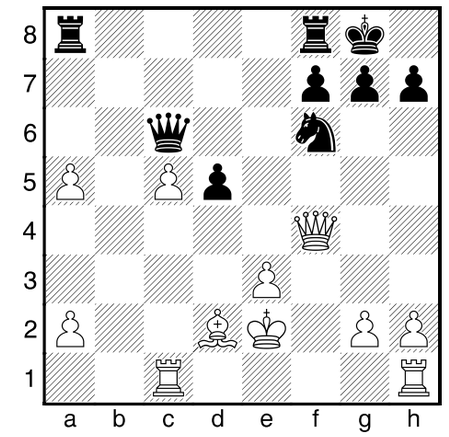
1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 b6 3.d4 e6 4.e3 ♗b4+ 5.♗d2 ♗e7 6.♘c3 ♗b7 7.♗d3 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.♕a4+ c6 10.♘e5 0-0 11.b4 ♗d6 12.f4 b5 13.♕b3 a5 14.bxa5 b4 15.♘e2 ♘a6 16.♖c1? (16.0-0= c5 17.dxc5 ♘xc5 18.♕xb4 ♗xe5 19.fxe5 ♘xd3 20.♕xb7 ♘e4=) **16...c5 17.♗xa6 ♗xa6 18.♘c6 ♕d7 19.dxc5 ♗xe2** (19...♕xc6! 20.cxd6 ♕d7 *(20...♕xd6 21.♗xb4)* 21.♗xb4±) **20.♔xe2 ♗xf4**



21.♕xb4?
⌓21.exf4 ♕xc6 22.♖hd1! ♖xa5 23.♗xb4 ♕a6+∓ and takes a2.

21...♕xc6
21...♗c7!-+ 22.♘d4 ♗xa5 23.♕b2 ♗xd2 24.♕xd2 ♘e4 25.♕c2 ♕g4+ 26.♔f1 ♖a3-+ White is playing without the ♖h1.

22.♕xf4



22...d4!
Opening lines while the white king is in the center. Korchnoi plays the attack very accurately.

23.exd4 ♕xg2+ 24.♔d3
24.♕f2?? ♖fe8+ 25.♗e3 ♖xe3+ 26.♔xe3 ♘g4+-+.

24...♕g6+! 25.♔c4
25.♔e2 ♖fe8+ 26.♔d1 ♕d3 27.♖e1 *(27.♕f1 ♕xd4-+)* 27...♖xe1+ 28.♔xe1 ♖e8+ 29.♔d1 ♘d5 30.♕g3 ♘e3+ 31.♕xe3 ♖xe3-+.

25...♘e4
Or 25...♘d5-+.

26.♗b4 ♕a6+! 27.♔b3 ♕d3+□ 28.♔b2 ♖fb8

Korchnoi *2004 Quebec simul. (photos: Fillion)*

29.♖hd1
29.a3 ♕xd4+ 30.♔c2 *(30.♔b3 ♘xc5+)* 30...♖xb4!-+.

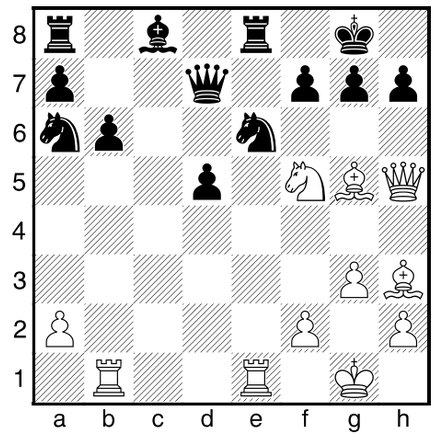
29...♖xb4+ 30.♔a1 ♕e2! 31.♖b1 ♘c3
31...♕xa2+! is faster, but maybe unnecessarily flashy?

0-1

(20)
Sandipan, Chanda
Tiviakov, Sergei
E17
Canadian Open Ottawa (9), 14.07.2007

Voted second best game in *Chess Informant 100*, and one of only two games played in Canada to be included in *The Mammoth Book of the World's Greatest Chess Games*; the other was Timman − Karpov, game 13 above.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♗b7 5.♗g2 ♗e7 6.0-0 0-0 7.d5 exd5 8.♘h4 c6 9.cxd5 ♘xd5 10.♘f5 ♘c7 11.e4 d5 12.♘c3 ♗f6 13.exd5!? cxd5 14.♗f4 ♘ba6 15.♖e1 ♕d7 16.♗h3 ♘e6?! (16...♕d8□ Kasparov) **17.♘e4! ♗xb2 18.♖b1 ♗c8 19.♘g5 ♗f6 20.♕h5 ♗xg5**
(20...♘xg5 21.♗xg5 ♕c6 22.♗xf6 ♕xf6 23.♘e7+) **21.♗xg5 ♖e8**



White is two pawns down but has a lot of pieces in menacing positions... and even more ways to win!

22.♗f6!
White has a winning attack on the dark squares — g7 is protected only by the pinned ♘e6 — and the key in all winning lines is a piece sac on f6, g7 or h6.

In fact, White's position is *so* crushing that Stockfish 12 rates ***nine*** different moves as winning for White! Here is a brief overview, showing as many different winning maneuvers as possible. They are listed as SF ranks them, but if you are in a hurry, the most instructive are the game line and #2, and the most fun line is #6.

2) 22.♘h6++- gxh6 *(22...♔h8 23.♘xf7++-; 22...♔f8 23.♗f6+-)* 23.♗f6! ♕d6 24.♗xe6! ♗xe6 *(24...♖xe6 25.♕xh6 ♖xf6 26.♖e8+ #1)* 25.♕xh6 ♕f8 26.♕g5+ #1.

3) 22.♖bd1 g6 *(22...f6 23.♖xd5!+-)* 23.♕h6 f6 24.♖xd5 ♕xd5 *(24...♕f7 25.♘d6□+-)* 25.♖xe6 ♕d1+ 26.♗f1+-.

4) 22.♗f1 ♗b7 *(22...♘ac7 23.♗f6* transposes*)* 23.♗b5+- wins material and keeps an attack.

5) 22.♕h4 ♕c7 23.♖bc1 ♘ac5 24.♗f6 g6 25.♘h6+ ♔f8 26.♘g4 h5 27.♖e5 and ♖xh5 breaks the pawn cover.

6) 22.♕g4 ♘ac5 23.♗f6 g6 24.♕h4 ♗b7 25.♖xe6 ♘xe6 26.♕b4!! such a crazy move to see: removing the ♕ from the attacking zone; threat is ♘h6#, and if 26...h5 27.♕d2 and ♕h6 wins; quite a trip for the queen.

7) 22.♖e2 g6 23.♘h6+ ♔g7 24.♗f6+! ♔xf6 25.♕e5+ ♔e7 26.♕g7□ ♖f8 27.♖xe6++-.

8) This line looks ridiculous, since White seems to throw away two tempi (here and on move 24), but it's another different win: 22.♖e5 ♘ac5 23.♘h6+□ ♔f8 24.♗d2 *(24.♗xe6+-)* 24...♗b7 25.♘f5 ♔g8 26.♘xg7□ ♘xg7 *(26...♔xg7 27.♕h6+)* 27.♗xd7□ ♘xh5 28.♖xe8++- with a winning material advantage in the endgame.

9) 22.♗g2 even undeveloping wins, though the margin is smaller: 22...♘ac7 23.♗f6 ♘f4!? 24.♕g5□ ♖xe1+ *(24...♘g6 25.♘xg7+- ♕g4)* 25.♖xe1 ♘fe6 26.♕g4 ♘e8 *(26...h5 27.♘h6++-)* 27.♗b2 ♗b7 28.♘h6+ ♔h8 *(28...♔f8 29.♗a3++-)* 29.♕f5 ♘f6 *(29...♘d6 30.♕f6)* 30.♗xf6 gxf6 31.♕xf6+ ♘g7 32.♖e7 ♕c6 33.♕xf7 ♕xh6 34.♖xb7+-.

22...gxf6
22...♘ac7 23.♘xg7 *(23.♘h6+ gxh6 24.♕xh6* and ♗f5+-*)* 23...♘xg7 24.♕h6+-;

22...g6 23.♕h6 ♘ac5 *(23...♗b7 24.♖bd1+-)* 24.♖bd1 ♕c7 25.♖xd5+-.

23.♕h6
The ♘e6 prevents mate on g7, and White can't sac for it, because ...fxe6 opens a defence along the 7th rank; so what can White do?

23...♘ac5
23...♗b7 24.♕xf6 *(24.♖bd1 d4 25.♖xe6 fxe6 26.♖xd4+-)* 24...♘ac5 25.♘h6+ ♔f8 26.♗xe6 ♘xe6 27.♘f5 ♔g8 28.♖xe6 fxe6 29.♘h6#.

24.♖bd1!
To attack h7!

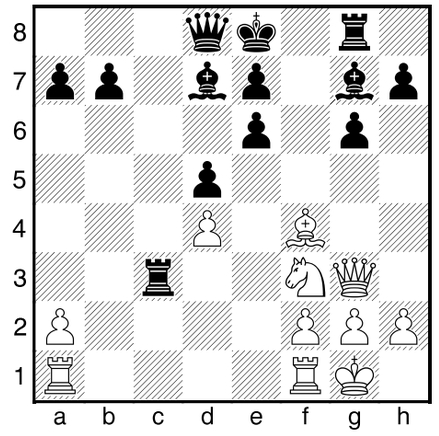
24...♕b7 25.♖d4 ♘e4 26.♖exe4! dxe4 27.♕xf6 ♕c7 28.♘h6+ ♔f8 29.♕h8+ ♔e7 30.♘f5#

1-0

(21)
Pepin, Christian
Shirov, Alexei
B50
Shirov Simul Ottawa, 11.02.2010

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.c3 ♘f6 4.♕c2 ♘c6 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.e5 ♘e4 8.♗b5 ♗d7 9.e6 fxe6 10.0-0 g6 11.♘c3 ♖c8 12.♗xc6 ♖xc6

13.♕e2 ♘xc3 14.♕e5 ♖g8 15.bxc3 ♗g7 16.♕g3 ♖xc3 17.♗f4



...♗xd4 or ...♖f8

17...♗xd4?!
⌓17...♖f8 18.♕h4 (18.♗e5 ♗xe5 19.♕xe5 *(19.dxe5 ♕c7* Xe5*)* 19...♕c7 20.♕g7 ♕f4∓) 18...♖xf3! this exchange sac leaves White with five isolated pawns and Black's ♗s with dangerous diagonals. 19.gxf3 ♗xd4 20.♕xh7 *(20.♖ad1 ♗c5∓; 20.♗h6? ♗xa1 21.♗xf8 ♗f6 22.♕h6 ♔f7-+)* 20...♗b5∓.

18.♕h4!∞ ♖xf3! 19.♕xh7□
19.gxf3?? ♗b5!-+ frees d7 for the King and puts both Rooks under attack

19...♖xf4
White has a perpetual.
19...♔f8!? 20.♗h6+ ♗g7 21.gxf3∞;
19...♖xf4 20.♕xg8+ ♖f8 21.♕xg6+ ♖f7 22.♕g8+=.

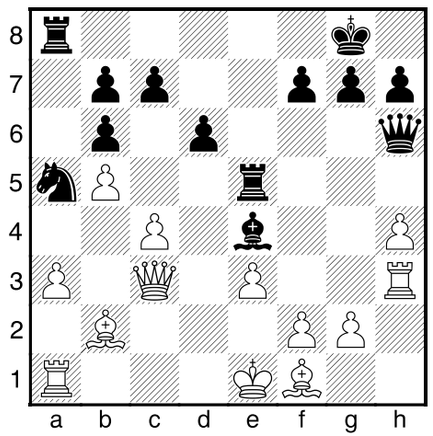
½-½

A reasonable result; White kept Black under pressure from 9.e6.

(22)
Pacey, Kevin
Shirov, Alexei (2722)

A28
RACC 2011 Shirov Simul Ottawa, 03.02.2011

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.e3 ♗b4 5.♕c2 0-0 6.♘d5 d6 7.a3 ♗a5 8.b4 ♗b6 9.♘xb6 axb6 10.♗b2 e4 11.b5 ♘a5 12.♘g5 ♖e8 13.d3 ♗f5 14.dxe4 ♘xe4 15.♘xe4 ♗xe4 16.♕c3 ♕g5 17.h4 ♕h6 18.♖h3 ♖e5



What would be fun to play against Shirov?

19.g4!

The threats include g5 and f4, hitting Black's majors and forcing open the attack on g7.

19...f5??

⌓19...f6!± X♘a5;

19...♖ae8!? looks bad, but after 20.f4 Black stays in the game with *(⌓20.♗e2)* 20...♗g2□ *(20...♖5e7 21.g5 ♕g6 22.h5+-)* 21.g5 *(21.♗xg2 ♕xf4 22.0-0-0 ♕xg4∞)* 21...♗xh3 22.gxh6 ♖xe3+ 23.♕xe3 ♖xe3+ 24.♔f2 ♖b3±.

20.g5!+-

The ♗e4 is trapped!

20...♕h5 21.♗e2 ♕f7 22.f3 f4 23.exf4

23.fxe4! ♖xe4 24.♗d3 ♖xe3+ 25.♖xe3 fxe3 26.0-0-0+-.

23...♕xf4

23...♗f5! 24.fxe5 ♗xh3 25.exd6 cxd6 is bad, but leaves Black with more of a mess to conjure with.

24.fxe4 ♖f8 25.♖d1! ♕xe4 26.♕d3□+-

Defends e2 and creates a double attack on ♕e4 and ♖e5, forcing off Black's ♕ and killing any chance for tricks.

26...♖e7 27.♕xe4 ♖xe4 28.♖d4 ♖e6 29.h5 ♖fe8 30.♖h2 ♘b3 31.♖f4 ♘c5 32.♔d1 ♖e3 33.h6 g6 34.♗f3

♗d5+ wins more material.

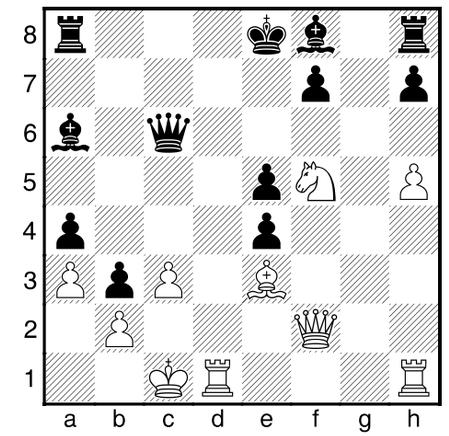
Draw with Black, win with White, brought Kevin's simul score vs Shirov to +1=1-0.

1-0

(23)
Shirov, Alexei
Doubleday, William

B33
RACC 2011 Shirov Simul Ottawa, 03.02.2011

29...dxe4



Shirov RACC simuls

***K.Pacey** and **B.Doubleday** (2nd & 3rd from right) prove ready to fight.*

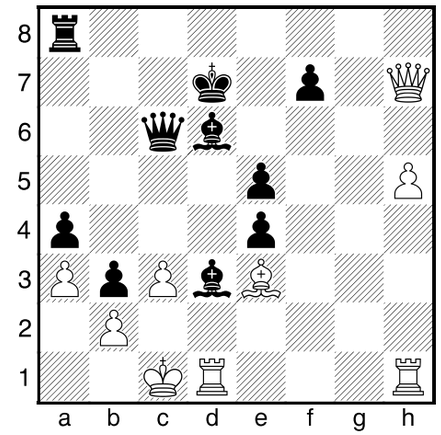
30.♘d6+?
30.h6? ♗d3 31.♘g7+ ♔d8 32.♗g5+ ♔c8 33.♕f5+ ♔b7 34.♕xf7+ ♔a6-+;

30.♖hg1!? ♗d3 31.♘g7+ ♗xg7 *(31...♔d8 32.♕xf7 ♗xa3∞)* 32.♖xg7 ♕e6 33.h6⩱ Black has two extra pawns, but I don't see how he can break White's dark square blockade without exposing his ♔.

30...♗xd6 31.♕f6
The only way to create any threats, and clearly White's idea behind ♘d6+.

31...♗d3?
So close! Black either didn't see that he could zig−zag out of trouble and keep the extra piece, or thought his counterattack was winning.
⌓31...♔d7!-+ Δ32.♕xf7+ ♔c8□-+ 33.♖hg1 *(33.♕e6+ ♔c7 34.♕f7+ ♕d7 35.♕d5 ♗d3-+)* 33...♗d3 34.♖g8+ ♖xg8 35.♕xg8+ ♔b7 36.♕xh7+ ♕c7-+.

32.♕xh8+= ♔d7 33.♕xh7



What happens on ...♗xa3!?

33...♗xa3?
⌓33...♕c4∞ defending f7 and threatening ...♗xa3.

34.♖xd3+?=
Safety first. White can't be blamed for not finding the following lines in a simul:
34.♕xf7+□+- ♔c8!? *(34...♗e7 35.♗g5+-)* 35.♖d2□ ♗xb2+ *(35...♕xc3+ 36.♔d1 ♗xb2 37.♖g2□+- ♗c2+ 38.♔e2□ ♕d3+ 39.♔f2+−*) 36.♔d1□ *(36.♔xb2 a3+-+)* 36...♗xc3 37.♖g1□+- *(37.♖g2? ♕d7 38.♖g8+ ♔c7 39.♗b6+ ♔xb6□ 40.♕xd7 ♖xg8 41.♕e6+ ♔c5 42.♕xg8 b2=)* 37...♗c2+ 38.♔e1 ♗xd2+ 39.♗xd2□+-.

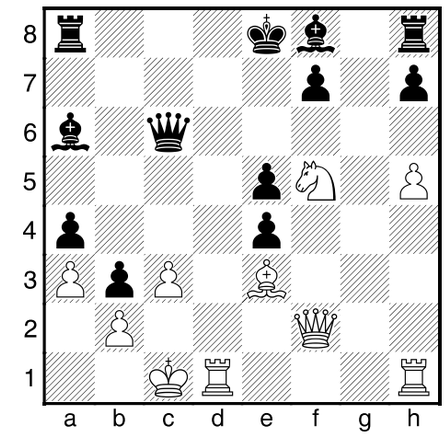
34...exd3 35.♕xd3+ ♗d6= 36.♕f5+ ♔e8 37.♖g1 a3! 38.♖g8+ ♗f8□ 39.♕xe5+ ♔d7 40.♕f5+ ♕e6 41.♕b5+ ♕c6 42.♕f5+
A real fighting game.

½-½

But now, I must destroy you...
Host ***Gordon Ritchie*** *made* ***Shirov****'s visits possible.*

(24)
Dunne, Fracesco
Shirov, Alexei
C77
RACC 2011 Shirov Simul Ottawa, 03.02.2011

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 b5 6.♗b3 ♗c5 7.♕e2 d6 8.h3 0-0 9.c3 h6 10.♖d1 ♖e8 11.d3 ♗b7 12.♘bd2 ♘e7 13.♘f1 ♘g6 14.♘g3 ♘f4 15.♗xf4 exf4 16.♘f5 d5 17.♕c2 dxe4 18.dxe4



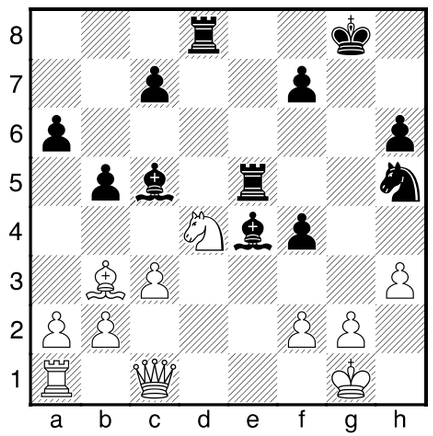
18... ♗xe4?!
I asked Alexei if he thought this sacrifice was sound, or whether it was, as Tal used to say, "a bit of hooliganism". Shirov said

he didn't like his position and thought this gave him adequate compensation, but that he'd just missed White's strong defensive retreat on move 21; and if he'd seen 18...♕c8 he would have played it: 18...♕c8! 19.♗d5 ♗xd5 20.exd5 ♗xf2+ 21.♔xf2 ♘e4+ 22.♔g1 ♕xf5∓.

19.♖xd8 ♖axd8 20.♘xh6+ gxh6 21.♕c1!
The move Shirov missed. If Black loses the ♙f4 he's toast.

The other way to save the ♕ gives Black plenty of play: 21.♕e2 ♗b7 22.♕f1 ♗xf3 23.gxf3 ♖d2⩲.

21...♘h5 22.♘d4! ♖e5



Black overlooked a White defensive resource and is scrambling for compensation. What should White do?

23.f3??
23.♕d1?! ♖g5 24.f3 ♗g6∞;

23.♕f1?! ♖g5 24.f3 ♘g3∞;

⌓23.♔h2±;

⌓23.♗d1! ♖g5 24.♗xh5! ♗xg2 *(24...♖xg2+ 25.♔f1+-)* 25.h4!+-.

23...♗xf3!!→ 24.gxf3?
24.♕f1! ♗c6 to support ...♖de8 if the ♖s get traded on the e−file. *(24...♗e2!?∓)* 25.♔h2 ♗xd4 26.cxd4 ♖xd4 27.♕f2=.

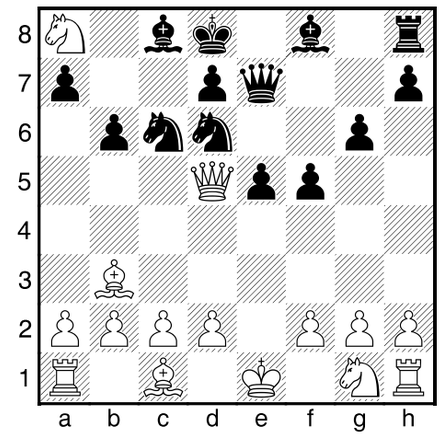
24...♖xd4!!
There's no stopping mate, which White sportingly allowed the spectators to see.

25.cxd4 ♗xd4+ 26.♔g2 ♖e2+ 27.♔f1 ♘g3#

0-1

(25)
Desjardins, Michel
Shirov, Alexei
C27
RACC 2011 Shirov Simul Ottawa, 03.02.2011

1.e4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♗c4 ♘xe4 4.♕h5 ♘d6 5.♗b3 ♘c6 6.♘b5 g6 7.♕f3 f5 8.♕d5 ♕e7 9.♘xc7+ ♔d8 10.♘xa8 b6



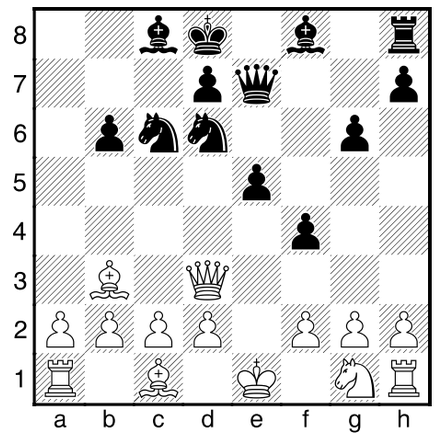
Frankenstein−Dracula Variation

2011: Black obviously has *some* compensation in development and centre control, but is it enough for an exchange *and* a pawn? After a minute of analysis, Rybka rates this position +1.5, and Houdini +1.1. It is nice to think that GMs still understand compensation much better than computers — think of David Bronstein's games against them — but maybe it's time for an opening survey done with the latest software!?

FWIW, Shirov is the highest−rated player to play this position, but (oddly) Chessbase removed this game from their MegaBase after including it for a few years.

Update 2021: SF12 rates this position as ± after several White moves, including the game line and 11.♕f3! and 11.♘e2!

11.♘xb6 axb6 12.♕d3! f4



Black threatens ...e4.

13.c3?
13.♘e2!:

13...♗b7 14.♘c3± ♘d4 15.♗d5± (1-0, 38) Skliarov,V (2376)−Tay,J (2230) chess.com, 2020.

13... e4!? anyway.

2011: Michel told me that after the game he ran Houdini on this position for 10 hours, and it couldn't find enough compensation for Black after 14.♕h3! When I asked Alexei about this he admitted that he hadn't checked these lines with the recent generation of computer programs, but that once he'd started down this line with ...♘xe4 he didn't see a way out of it.

2021: Checking this 10 years later with Stockfish12 supports the original conclusion: White is much better, but it's complicated: 14.♕h3! f3 15.gxf3 *(15.♘c3!?)* 15...exf3 16.♕xf3 ♗h6 17.♔d1!± *(17.0-0?? ♖f8-+).*

13...e4□ 14.♕e2 ♘e5!-+

15.♗c2?
⌓15.♔d1.

15...♗b7
15...f3! 16.gxf3 exf3 17.♕e3 *(17.♘xf3 ♘xf3+ 18.♔d1 ♗b7 19.♕xe7+ ♗xe7∓)* 17...♘dc4 18.♕e4 ♗b7-+.

16.♕f1?
16.f3∞.

16...f3 17.gxf3 exf3 18.♔d1 ♕h4 19.d4?
19.h3! ♘e4! 20.♖h2! ♕f4↑.

19..♘g4!-+ 20.♗e3 ♗h6 21.♕h3
21.♗xh6 ♘xf2+ 22.♔c1 ♕xh6+ 23.♔b1 ♘xh1-+.

21...♘xf2+ 22.♗xf2 ♕xf2 23.♕xh6 ♕f1+ 24.♔d2 ♘c4#

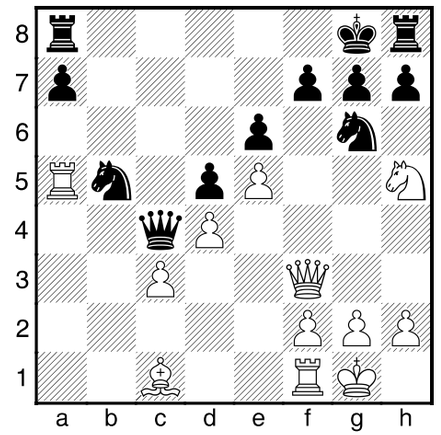
0-1

(26) Short, Nigel D
Hambleton, Aman

C18
RACC Olympic Waive (4), 23.06.2012

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♘e7 7.a4 b6 8.♕g4 ♔f8 9.a5 cxd4 10.cxd4 bxa5 11.c3 ♕c7 12.♕f3 ♗a6 13.♗xa6 ♘xa6 14.♘e2 ♔g8 15.0-0 ♕c4 16.♖xa5 ♘c6 17.♖a1 ♘c7 18.♘f4 ♘e7

19.♘h5 ♘g6 20.♖a5 ♘b5



What would Alekhine play?

Short Work

GM Nigel Short *defeated* ***FM Aman Hambleton*** *en route to winning the 2012 Olympiad Waive tournament in Ottawa.*

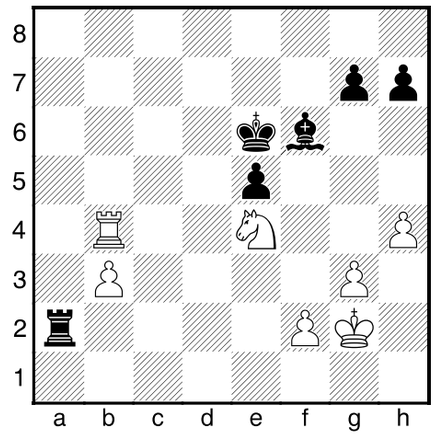
21.♗d2
Good enough for a winning advantage, but the Alekhine finish is 21.♕f6!! gxf6 22.♗h6 and ♘xf6#.

21...♖c8 22.♖b1 a6 23.h3 h6 24.♔h2 ♘h4 25.♕g4 ♘g6 26.♖ba1 ♕d3 27.♗e1 ♘xc3 28.♗xc3 ♖xc3 29.♖xa6 ♖c4 30.♖xe6 ♔h7 31.♖a7 ♖f8 32.♖ee7 ♖xd4 33.f4 ♕d1 34.♕xd1 ♖xd1 35.♖xf7 ♖xf7 36.♖xf7 ♘h4 37.f5 ♖d2 38.♘f6+

1-0

(27) Carlsen, Magnus – Wiebe, Isaac

A96
New York Challenge sim New York (3.3), 22.09.2016



What's Black's best defence?

28...♖b2?
Magnus went straight to this position in the postmortem (see photo), but analyzed it as though it was Black's move:

"You need to take control over the light squares on the kingside. Once I get in this [h4-h5], my king will come here [g4], my rook will... check your king away, and my king will come in [g4-f5]. So you need to play ...g6 and ...h5."

29.h5!
"Once you get this, 29...h5 I think I still have excellent winning chances, but it's much more difficult.... Once I get control over the light squares it becomes very easy to play." − Magnus Carlsen

29...♗e7 30.♖b7 ♖b1 31.♔f3 ♖b2 32.♔g4 ♖e2 33.f3 ♖b2 34.♖b6+
Notice that keeping the pawn on b3 restricts the activity of Black's ♖.

34...♔d5 35.♔f5 ♖h2 36.♖b7 ♗a3 37.♔g4 g6 38.♖d7+!
Pushing the black ♔ either away from the e5-pawn or to where it will be exposed to a check which enables White's ♖ to gain a tempo to get back to the queenside. Even in a simul Magnus finds the most accurate finesse!

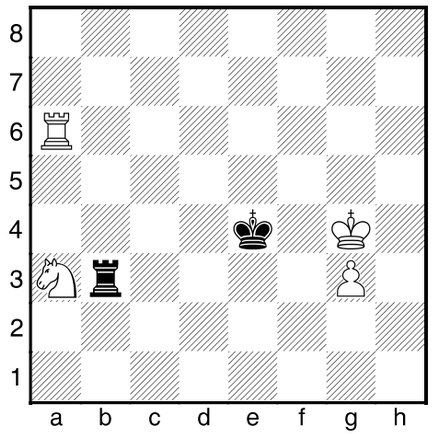
38.♖xh7 gxh5+ 39.♖xh5 ♖b2 is winning, but trickier 40.♘c3+ ♔c5 41.♖xe5+ ♔d4 42.♖a5□+- ♗b4 43.♘b5+ ♔c5 44.♘c3+□ ♗xa5 45.♘a4+□+-.

38...♔e6 39.♖xh7 gxh5+ 40.♖xh5 ♖b2 41.♖h6+ ♔d5
41...♔e7 42.♖b6 saves the b−pawn with none of the fuss of the variations above.

Simulcast

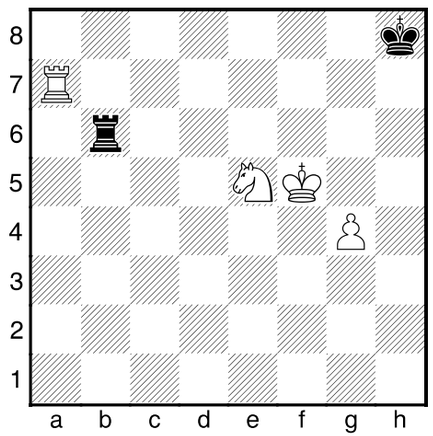
***Magnus Carlsen** live post-mortem with **Isaac Wiebe**, who won his ticket to play via the "Play Magnus" app.*

42.♘c3+ ♔d4 43.♘b5+ ♔d3 44.♘xa3 ♖xb3 45.♖a6 e4 46.fxe4 ♔xe4



This would be a draw, if it weren't for that stubborn g−pawn.

47.♖a4+ ♔e5 48.♘c4+ ♔f6 49.♖a6+ ♔g7 50.♘e5 ♖b5 51.♔f5 ♖b1 52.♖a7+ ♔h8 53.g4 ♖b6



It's a trivial win, but Magnus plays it computer−perfect for the minimum moves to mate.

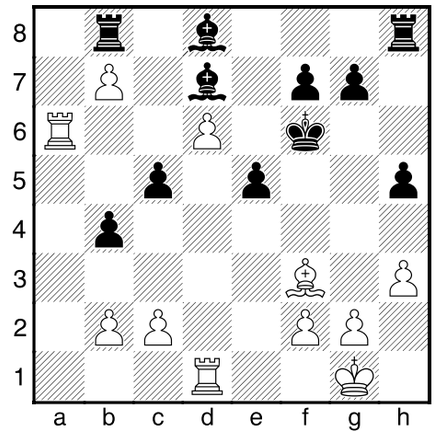
54.g5 ♖b1 55.♔g6 ♖b6+ 56.♔f7 ♖b8 57.♘g6+ ♔h7 58.♔f6+ ♔g8 59.♖g7#

1-0

(28)
Anand, Viswanathan
Kovalyov, Anton

B90
FIDE World Cup Tbilisi (2.1), 06.09.2017

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e6 8.♗e3 h5 9.♗e2 ♘bd7 10.0-0 ♖c8 11.♕d2 b5 12.♖fd1 ♘b6 13.♗xb6! ♕xb6 14.a4! b4 15.♘d5 ♘xd5 16.exd5 ♗d7 17.a5 ♕b7 18.♕e3 ♗e7 19.♕b6! ♕xb6 20.axb6 ♖b8□ 21.♖xa6 ♗d8□ 22.b7 ♔e7!? (22...♖xb7 23.♖da1±) **23.♘c5? dxc5 24.d6+ ♔f6 25.♗f3**



25... ♔f5□∓

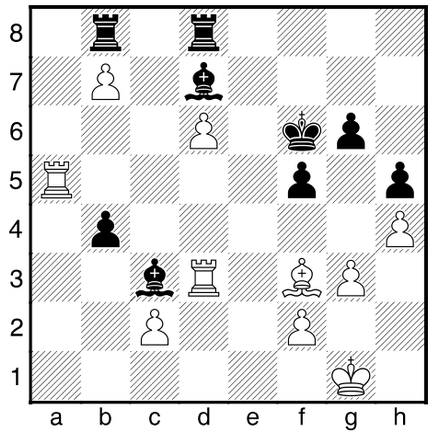
"When I played ...♔f5 I thought I had very good winning chances."
- Kovalyov

If Black can shut out or trade White's LSB then the b7-pawn is neutralized and Black wins. Here, and again at move 37 Black plays against the LSB.

26.♗d5 e4! 27.♖e1 ♗f6?! 28.♗xe4+ ♔g5 29.♖a5 ♗xb2! 30.♖xc5+ ♔f6 31.♖e3 g6! 32.♖f3+ ♔e6□ (32...♔g7 33.♗d5⇄) **33.♖d3 ♖hd8 34.♖a5 f5 35.♗f3 ♗c3 36.h4 ♔f6 37.g3?** (⌓37.♖a8∓)

Kovalyov - Anand

(photo: Karlovich)



37...f4□-+
An excellent clearance sac, giving the ♗d7 squares and unblocking the ♖d8.

38.♗e4
38.gxf4 ♗f5-+.

38...♗f5 39.♗xf5 gxf5 40.♖b5 ♔e6
Players reached the time control and gained an extra 30 min.

40...fxg3 41.fxg3 ♖d7 42.♖dd5 ♔e6! 43.♖xf5 ♖bxb7 44.♖xb7 ♖xb7 45.♖xh5 ♔xd6-+ Black's ♖ attacks the c−pawn and White's pawns are controlled by the ♗.

41.♔f1
41.♖dd5 ♖xb7-+.

41...♖d7 42.gxf4 ♖bxb7 43.♖e3+ ♔f6

0-1

(screencaps)

"I think I got a bit lucky today. I think he over−pushed in a more−or−less equal position. He made a sacrifice that, if it would have worked it would be the Game of the Year. But, it didn't work, hopefully for me."

− ***Anton Kovalyov*** postgame interview with *Anastasia Karlovich*.

Strategy
GAMES AND ACCESSORIES

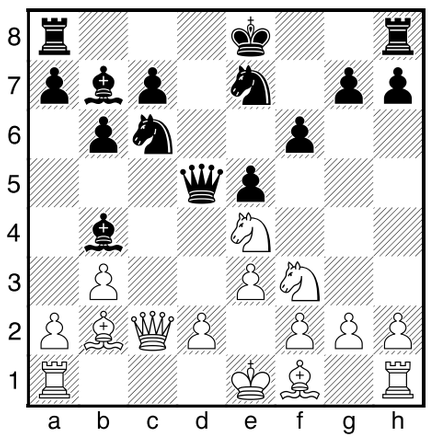
Openings

Positions in this "Openings" section have one or both kings uncastled. There are a few positions either immediately after castling, or soon after in any highly theoretical opening. Positions are in ECO order.

(29)
Spraggett, Kevin
Day, Lawrence

A10
CAN-ch Ottawa (14), 1984

1.♘f3 b6 2.c4 ♗b7 3.b3 f6 4.♘c3 e5 5.e3 ♗b4 6.♗b2 ♘e7 7.♕c2 ♘bc6 8.♘e4 d5 9.cxd5 ♕xd5



Black is ahead in development and has a pawn in the center. Can White live to fight another Day?

10.a3!
Black is busted, with only a choice of evils.

10...♗d6
10...0-0-0? hoping for 11.axb4?? ♘xb4-+, might work in bullet chess, but loses to 11.♗c4! ♕d7 12.axb4 ♘xb4 13.♕b1+-;

10...♘a5? 11.axb4 ♘xb3 *(11...♕xe4 12.♕xe4 ♗xe4 13.bxa5+-)* 12.♖d1 ♕xe4 13.♕xb3+-;

10...f5? 11.♘g3 ♕c5 *(11...♗c5 12.b4+-)* 12.♕b1+-;

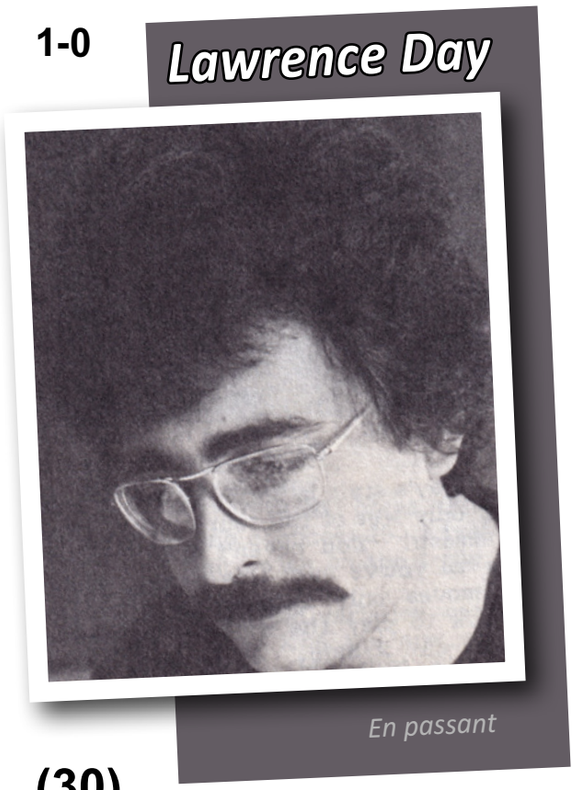
10...♘d8! is best 11.♘xf6+ gxf6 12.axb4±.

11.♗c4+-
Traps the ♕.

11...♘d4
11...♕a5 12.♘xd6+ cxd6 13.b4+-

12.♘xd6+!
Trades the ♘ with tempo then takes d4 and White is up a piece.

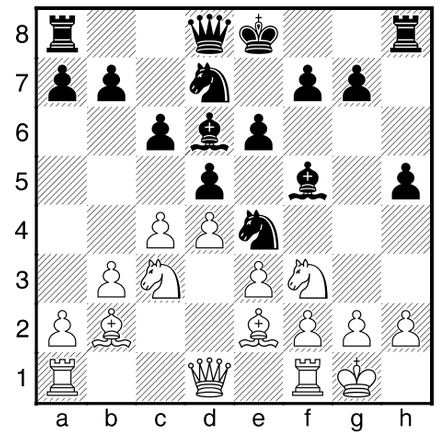
1-0



(30)
Malik, Omid
Atanasov, Anthony

A12
Live Chess Chess.com, 08.02.2020

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.b3 d5 3.♗b2 ♗f5 4.e3 e6 5.♗e2 ♘bd7 6.0-0 ♗d6 7.c4 c6 8.♘c3 h5 9.d4 ♘e4
London System Reversed



What happens on ♘xe4?

10.♘xe4?!
Sadly, White's best move would be the illegal d4-d3, equalizing.

10...dxe4!
Premove.

11.♘d2
⩲11.♘e5 is better, but Black has a strong initiative after 11...♕g5!→ 12.♘xd7? *(12.♔h1! ♘f6∓; 12.f4 exf3 13.♖xf3 ♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♗c5 15.♗d4 0-0-0-+)* 12...♗h3! 13.g3 h4 14.♘e5 *(14.♘c5 hxg3)* 14...f6 15.f4 exf3 16.♘xf3 ♕xe3+-+.

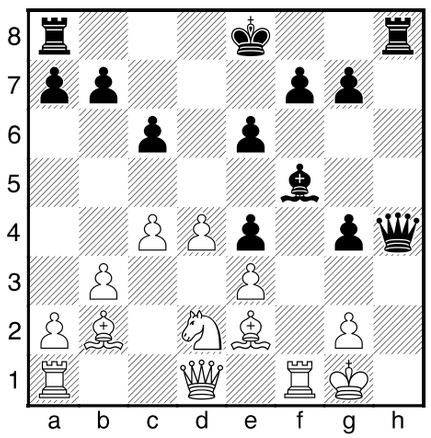
11...♗xh2+!? 12.♔xh2

♕h4+
Premove.

13.♔g1 ♘f6
Premove.

14.f3!
14.♗a3!? is the least likely looking defence.... but good! The idea is to play ♗d6 to defend h2. 14...♖d8□ *(14...0-0-0? 15.♗e7!±; 14...♘g4? 15.♗d6+-)* 15.♖e1 ♘g4 16.♘f1□ Black can force a draw with 16...♕xf2−h4, but can also play for more: 16...♘xf2 17.♕d2 ♖h6!? *(17...♘h3+ 18.♔h1 ♘f2+=)* 18.♕b4∞.

14...♘g4□ 15.fxg4□ hxg4□
Premove.



16.♖xf5?N
Novelty? Yep, this has all happened before... between two IMs.

16.♖f4?! ♕h2+ 17.♔f2 *(17.♔f1? ♕g3-+)* 17...g3+ 18.♔e1 ♕xg2∓ and White can avoid mate, but the g3-pawn is expensive.

White's best is: 16.♗xg4!

Black isn't risking anything, since there is always a repetition with 16...♕h2−♕h4+, but Black should keep testing White with 16...♗xg4, and now:

the IM game went: 17.♕e1? ♕h2+ 18.♔f2 ♖h5! 19.♖h1 ♖f5+ 20.♘f3 ♖xf3+! 21.♔e2 ♕xg2+ 22.♔d1 ♖f2+ 0-1 Lu,C (2203)−Vo,T (2399) Johor, 2017.

But White might survive with: 17.♕c2□∞ when Black can again repeat for a draw with *17...♕h1−h4 checks,* or continue with the rook lift with 17...♕h2+ 18.♔f2 ♖h5 19.♘xe4□ ♖f5+ 20.♔e1 ♖xf1+ 21.♔xf1 ♗f5□ threatening ...♕h1+ then ...♕h4. 22.♘d6+! ♕xd6 23.♕f2∓ with equal material and opposite ♗s; Black might even consider playing down a piece with *17...f5!?*

"premove"

A move entered in online chess during the opponent's turn, which will be immediately played if legal. Useful for recaptures, promotion races, and in wack-a-mole time-scrambles.

(Leelenstein) 18.♖f4□ (just try to figure out why that is an only move ☺) 0-0-0 preparing ...g5, even as an exchange sac!?

Hooligans rejoice.

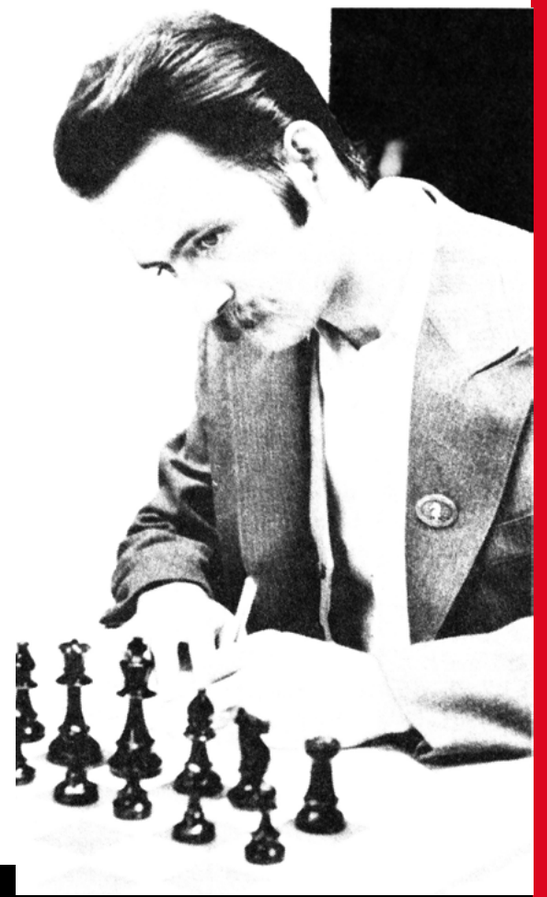
16...♕h1+! 17.♔f2 g3+□
Premove.

18.♔xg3 ♕h4#

0-1

(31)
Hamilton, Robert
Nickoloff, Bryon
A13
CAN-ch Winnipeg (4), 07.1986

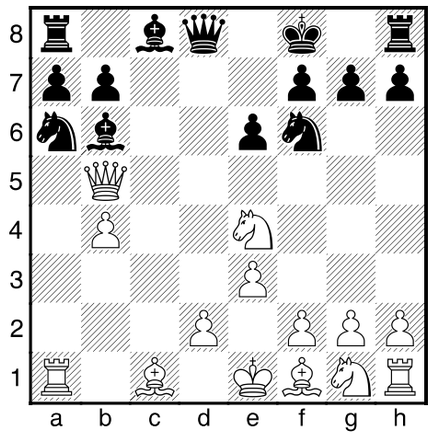
1.c4 e6 2.♘c3 ♗b4 3.♕c2 c5 4.a3 ♗a5 5.♘e4 d6 6.b4 cxb4 7.c5 dxc5 8.♕xc5 ♘a6 9.♕b5+ ♔f8 10.axb4 ♗b6 (10...♗xb4?? 11.♖xa6+-)



Bryon Nickoloff *1984*

En passant

11.e3 ♘f6



What happens if White takes f6?

12.♘xf6! ♕xf6??
12...gxf6□ 13.♗a3±.

13.♖xa6□+- bxa6 14.♕c6 ♕a1!
Good try. 14...♖b8 15.♕d6++-.

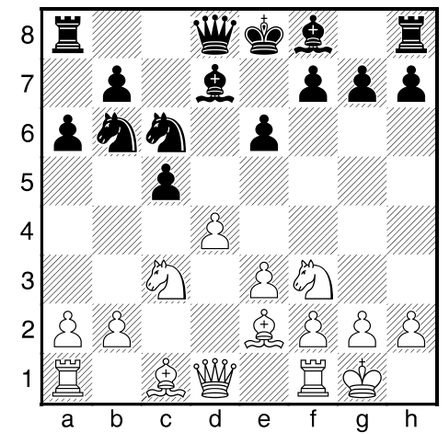
15.♘e2□
It's never too late to blunder away the win: 15.♔d1?? ♔e7!-+ 16.♕xa8 ♗d7 17.♕xh8 ♗a4+-+ White is going to lose both ♗s and still have an unsafe ♔ and no development.

1-0

(32)
Upper, John
Huang, Qiuyu

A17
Quebec Open Longueuil (9), 28.07.2018

1.c4 e6 2.♘c3 d5 3.e3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 c5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.♗c4 ♘b6 7.♗e2 ♘c6 8.d4 ♗d7 9.0-0 a6?!



10.dxc5!±
White allows the ♗f8 to develop in one move, but to a vulnerable square. The possibility of using ♘s to chase the ♗−pair is an idea I remembered from some QGA lines, and it worked here.

10...♗xc5 11.♘e4! ♕e7
11...♗e7 12.♘d6+ ♗xd6 13.♕xd6± with at least the ♗−pair and an open center.

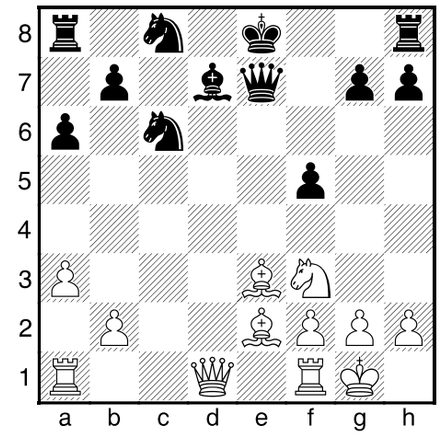
12.a3±
⌓12.♘xc5 ♕xc5 13.e4± threatening to skewer with ♗e3; but I didn't see this idea until after Black's next.

12...f5 13.♘xc5 ♕xc5 14.e4!
Stockfish 12 and Leelenstein 15 both rate this position as more than +2.

14...♘c8
14...fxe4 15.♗e3 ♕e7 16.♘g5 ♘d5 17.♘xe4 ♘xe3 18.fxe3+-.

15.♗e3 ♕e7 16.exf5
16.♖c1 developing and supporting ♗c5, 16... fxe4 17.♘g5+- *(17.♗g5? exf3!±)* 17...0-0 18.♘xe4+- Black's pawn structure is worse and White's minors dominate the central dark squares.

16...exf5



SF12 rates this position as +6.6, but I played the next phase so badly that my advantage is minimal after 10 more moves.

Sambuev - Huang
Qiuyu won their 2018 CoQ game.

17.♖c1
⌓17.♗c4 ♗e6 *(17...♕d6 18.♖e1+-)* 18.♗g5+-.

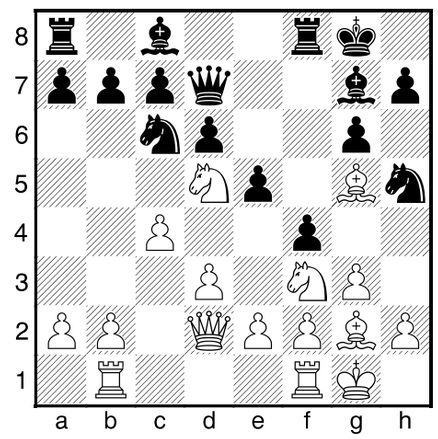
17...♕f6 18.♕d2?!
⌓18.♖e1 or 18.♗g5.

18...♘8e7 19.♖fd1?!
(⌓19.♗g5!) **19...♗e6** (19...0-0-0? 20.♗b6+-.) **20.♗c4?** (⌓20.♖xc6!? or 20.♗g5) **20...♖d8! 21.♕e2 ♖xd1+?! 22.♖xd1 ♗xc4 23.♕xc4 ♕f7 24.♕xf7+?** (⌓24.♕e2 0-0 25.♗c5+- with a material−winning bind.) **24...♔xf7 25.♗b6?!±** (⌓25.♘g5+±. White has a small advantage, but converted.) **25...♔e6? 26.♘g5+! ♔f6 27.f4 ♘c8 28.♖e1! ♔g6! 29.♗c5 ♖d8 30.♖e6+! ♔h5 31.♘xh7 ♖d5 32.b4 a5 33.h3! axb4 34.axb4 ♘d4 35.♖e8□ ♘d6 36.♖d8! ♘4b5 37.♘g5** (⌓37.♖d7) **37...♖d2 38.♘f3 38...♖d1+ 39.♔h2 ♔g6 40.♘e5+ ♔f6 41.♖d7 ♖d2 42.♗e3 ♖c2 43.♗b6 g6 44.♗d8+ ♔e6 45.♖g7 ♔d5 46.♖xg6 ♔e4 47.♔g3 ♖c3+ 48.♘f3 ♔d5 49.♗e7 ♘e4+ 50.♔h4 ♖c7 51.♗f8! ♖f7 52.♗g7! ♘bd6 53.♘g5! ♖e7 54.♗e5 b5 55.g4 ♘c4 56.gxf5 ♘xe5 57.fxe5 ♔xe5 58.♘xe4 ♔xf5 59.♖g4**

1-0

(33)
Coudari, Camille
Spraggett, Kevin
A26
Match Montreal (1), 20.12.1975

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.0-0 0-0 5.c4 d6 6.♘c3 e5 7.d3 ♘c6 8.♖b1 ♘h5 9.♘d5 f5 10.♗g5 ♕d7 11.♕d2 f4



It's a King's English where Black has played the typical ...f4 break, which here also threatens to trap the ♗g5. What should White do?

12.gxf4?
A serious mistake, but it's not at all easy to see how White can get enough play for his endangered ♗g5.

12.g4?! ♕xg4 *(12...h6∓)* 13.♘xc7 h6∓ is similar to the game, but Black doesn't have f4 for an attacking piece;

12.♘h4!? is possible; but best seems to be the indirect 12.b4! to deflect the ♘c6 from e7. 12...h6 13.b5 hxg5 *(13...♘d4 14.♘xd4 hxg5 15.♘c2±)* 14.bxc6 bxc6 and although it looks like White will get crushed by Black's kingside and central pawns, there's a saving trick: 15.♘xg5!? tactically saves the ♘d5 with the fork to ♖a8. *(15.♕a5!?; 15.♘c3? g4-+)* 15...♗h6 16.♘e6! with a lively mess.

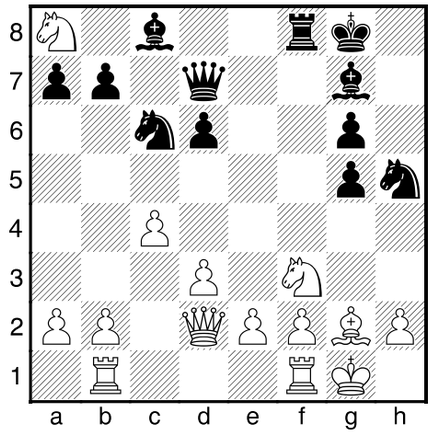
12...h6□ 13.fxe5
The critical line.
13.♗h4 exf4-+ and ...g5.

13...hxg5□ 14.e6 ♕xe6!!
14...♕d8 15.♕xg5! *(15.♘xg5 ♘e7∓)* 15...♗xe6 16.♕xg6 ♗f7 material is equal; the computer prefers Black but a human might not like this.

15.♘xc7 ♕d7 16.♘xa8

Camille Coudari

En passant?



A really good position to test your evaluation with the computer's: who is better and why?

Materially, White has a big advantage (♖pp vs ♗). The ♘a8 is probably a goner, and if we count it as lost then White has an insignificant material advantage (♖pp vs ♗♘). Black obviously has attacking chances on the kingside, but how much is that worth?

Stockfish 12 says Black is winning: −3.7. How can that be?

Here is a neat trick to help understand computer engine evaluations using your chess software's copy−and−paste: copy the position and paste it into a new board; then, edit the new board [in ChessBase, click S] and move one piece to various squares, using the engine to evaluate each, then compare the evaluations. For instance, in this position, move the offside and unsafe ♘a8 to:

- the offside *but safe* square a1 and... the computer says Black is *still* winning (−2);
- the safe but more active a3, then Black is only a little bit better (−.5);
- the safe *and active* c3, then... White is winning (+3).

So the key here is not material, but the activity of the pieces. More specifically, Black's greater power to get pieces into the attack than White's to get pieces over to defend.

There are too many defensive tries to fully analyze here, so the variations which follow show just a few of Black's winning maneuvers.

16...♘f4□ 17.♘e1
17.♔h1 ♘xg2 18.♔xg2 *(18.♕xg5 ♘f4* and an eventual ...♗b7 will be curtains.*)* 18...♕h3+ 19.♔g1 ♖xf3! 20.exf3 ♗e5-+.

17...♗e5!
17...♘d4! also works, but is more complicated. 18.e3 ♘xg2 19.exd4 ♘xe1 20.♖fxe1 ♕g4+ 21.♔f1 ♕f3-+ and ...♗h3+.

18.e3 ♕h7□
18...♘xg2? 19.♘xg2 ♕h7 20.f4∞.

19.f3
19.exf4 ♗xf4 threatening mate and the ♕.

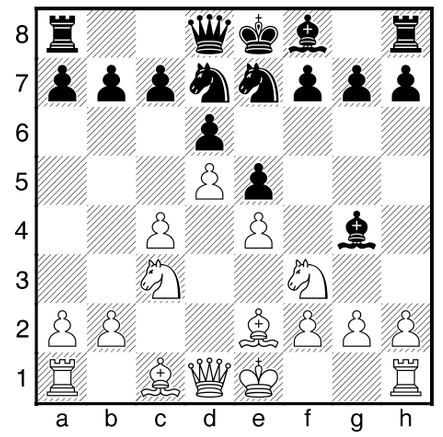
19...♘xg2 20.♕xg2 ♗h3 21.♕xg5
21.♕f2 ♗xf1 22.♔xf1 ♖xa8-+.

21...♖f5! 22.♕xf5 gxf5

0-1

(34)
Cummings, David
Bykhovsky, Avigdor
A28
Chess to Remember Toronto (3.2), 23.09.2018
Notes: IM David Cummings

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.e3 d6 5.d4 ♗g4 6.d5 ♘e7 7.♗e2 ♘d7 8.e4



KID−style with ...g6 or something else?

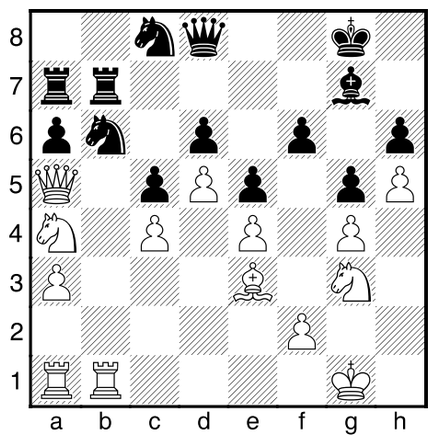
8...g6?
Black soon ends up in a King's Indian setup where he is missing the key light−squared bishop. Looking at Bykhovsky's games in the database, he doesn't appear to be a KID player, so no doubt was not comfortable with the way things went.

8...f5? 9.♘g5+-;
⌓8...♗xf3 9.♗xf3 g6± Black has conceded the ♗−pair and space, but it's better than the game line.

9.h4

Not a bad idea, but White missed the tactical solution: 9.♘xe5! which wins a pawn since 9...♗xe2 10.♘xd7□ ♗xd1?? 11.♘f6# takes advantage of the move 8...g6.

9...♗g7 10.♘g5 ♗xe2 11.♕xe2 h6 12.♘f3 0-0 13.h5 g5 14.g4 f6 15.♗e3 ♖f7 16.♘d2 c5 17.0-0 a6 18.a3 ♘c8 19.b4 b6 20.♖fb1 ♖a7 21.♘f1 ♖c7 22.♘g3 ♘e7 23.bxc5 bxc5 24.♕c2 ♖a7 25.♕a4 ♘b6 26.♕a5 ♘ec8 27.♘a4 ♖fb7



28.♗xc5!
The sacrifice on c5 is a theme you should know when playing White against KID. I don't recall where I first saw this, probably in the famous Zurich 1953 book.

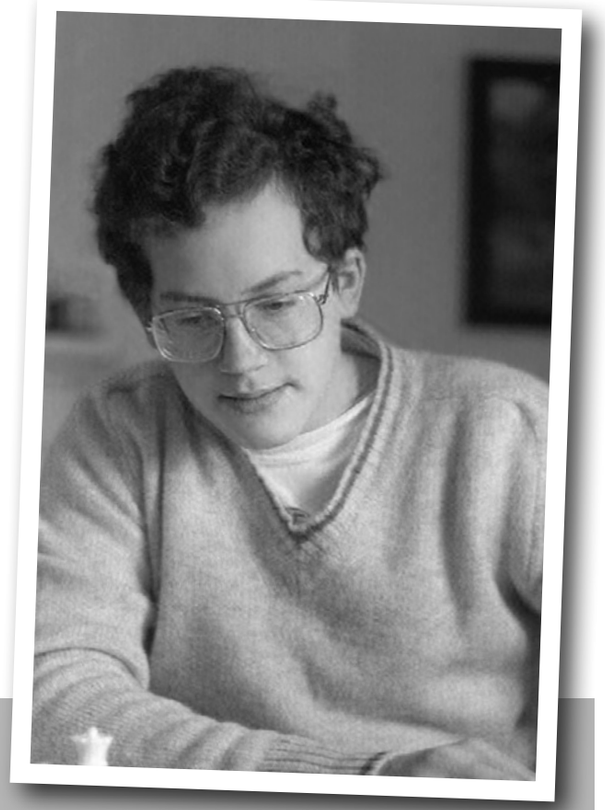
As this was a Rapid game, I didn't have time to calculate everything, but was confident that White had enough resources to make it work in this particular situation.

28...dxc5 29.♘xc5 ♖b8 30.♘e6 ♕e8 31.c5 ♘d7 32.♖xb8 ♘xb8 33.♖b1 ♘d7 34.♘f5 ♗f8 35.c6 ♘db6 36.♖xb6 ♘xb6 37.♕xb6 ♖a8 38.♘c7 ♖b8 39.♘xe8 ♖xb6 40.c7 ♖b1+ 41.♔g2 ♖c1 42.d6

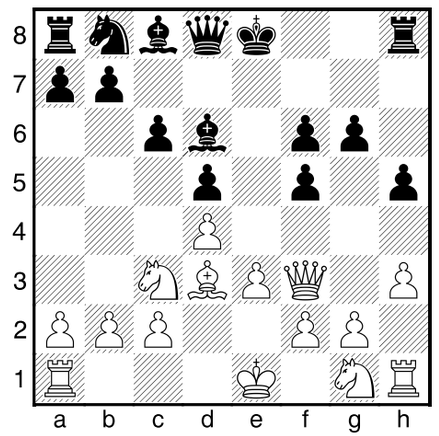
1-0

(35)
Southam, Todd
Cote, Jacques
A80
North Bay op North Bay, 1996

1.d4 f5 2.♘c3 d5 3.♗g5 ♘f6 4.♗xf6 exf6 5.e3 c6 6.♗d3 ♗d6 7.♕f3 g6 8.h3 h5



Todd Southam



Black has made five pawn moves to control the light squares. Can White do anything about it?

9.g4!±
SF12 rates this position as +1.6 at 28 ply; more−or−less winning already.

9.♘ge2 is too slow 9...♔f7!∞ connecting Q and R and defending g6 when 10.♘xd5?? is terrible: 10...cxd5 11.♕xd5+ ♔g7-+.

9...fxg4
9...♕d7? 10.gxf5± gxf5 11.♘ge2+- Hebert,J (2400)−Merstorf,D Metz, 1995 (1-0, 41);

9...hxg4 10.hxg4 ♖xh1 11.♕xh1 fxg4 12.♗xg6+ ♔d7 13.♘ge2± material is equal, but White has much faster development and a better pawn structure. (1-0, 32) Egorov,E (2355)−Ankudinova,E (2124) Pavlodar, 2010.

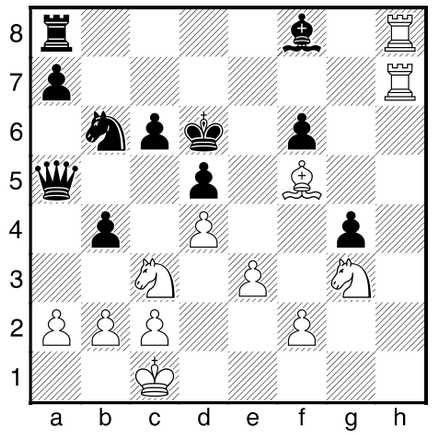
10.hxg4
10.♗xg6+? ♔e7∞.

10...♗xg4 11.♕xg4□+-
This is the point of 9.g4: for the ♕, White gets a ♖ and ♘, initiative against an exposed Black ♔, and terrific light square pressure.

Not 11.♗xg6+? ♔e7 12.♕g2∞.

11...hxg4 12.♖xh8+ ♗f8 13.♗xg6+ ♔e7 14.♘ge2 ♘d7 15.♗f5!
Threat ♖h7+.

15...♔d6 16.0-0-0 b5 17.♖dh1 ♕a5 18.♖1h7+- ♘b6 19.♘g3! b4



20.♘ce4+!! dxe4 21.♘xe4+ ♔d5 22.♘xf6+! ♔d6
22...♔c4 23.♗d3#.

23.♘e4+
23.♗xg4+- ♕xa2 24.♘e4+ ♔d5 25.♖h5+ ♔xe4 26.♖e5#.

23...♔d5 24.♖h5! c5 25.♗d7+ ♔xe4 26.♗c6+ and ♗xd5 mate next.

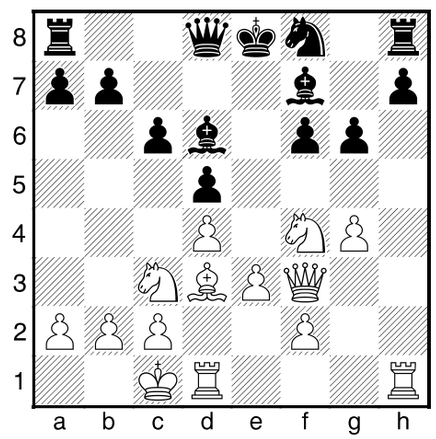
An excellent King hunt by Todd, and a game anyone would be proud to have played.

1-0

(36)
Pacey, Kevin
Villeneuve, Luc

A80
Arnprior op (1), 30.04.2011

1.d4 f5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♗g5 d5 4.♗xf6 exf6 5.e3 c6 6.♗d3 g6 7.♕f3 ♗e6 8.h3 ♗d6 9.g4 (as in T.Southam−Cote, above.) **9...fxg4 10.hxg4 ♗f7 11.♘ge2 ♘d7 12.♘f4 ♘f8 13.0-0-0**



What should Black do?

13...♕c7?
13...♖g8 14.e4! *(14.♘fxd5! cxd5 15.♗b5++-)* 14...♕c7 15.♘fxd5 cxd5 16.♗b5+ ♔d8 17.e5□ ♖c8 18.♗a4! ♗e7 19.♘xd5 ♕a5 20.♘xe7 ♕xa4 21.♘xc8 ♕b3 1-0 Southam,T−Walker,B Toronto, 1993;

⌓13...♕e7 14.e4! and Black is in trouble but maybe not lost.

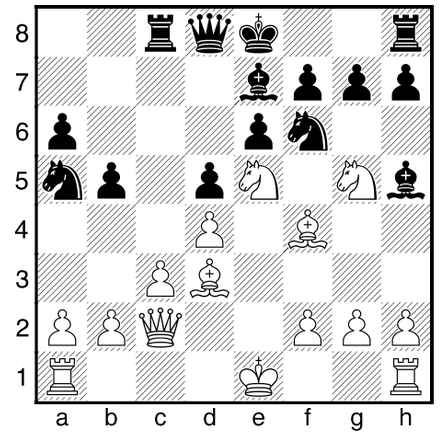
14.♘fxd5!! ♗xd5 15.♘xd5 cxd5 16.♕xf6 ♖g8 17.♗b5+ ♘d7 18.♖xh7

1-0

(37)
Doknjas, Neil
Murray, David

B13
Oregon Open (4), 05.09.2016
Notes: Neil Doknjas

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.♗f4 ♘f6 5.c3 ♘c6 6.♗d3 a6 7.♘d2 ♗g4 8.♕b3 ♘a5 9.♕a4+ b5 10.♕c2 e6 11.♘gf3 ♗e7 12.♘e5 ♖c8 13.♘df3 ♗h5 14.♘g5!?



This move sets a trap...

14...h6
14...♗g6?? 15.♗xg6 and Black loses to ♘xe6 or either ♘f7.

⌓14...♘c6 or ...♘c4, removing the attacker on e5. 15.♘xc6 ♖xc6= 16.♘xh7?? ♘xh7 17.♗xh7 g6-+.

15.♘gxf7?
⌓15.♘xe6!! The same idea, but prevents Black from castling. 15...fxe6 16.♗g6+ ♔f8 *(16...♗xg6? 17.♕xg6+ ♔f8 18.♕f7#)* 17.♘f7 ♕e8 18.♘xh8 ♗xg6 19.♘xg6+-+.

15...♗xf7 16.♗g6 0-0!
Now White is just worse.

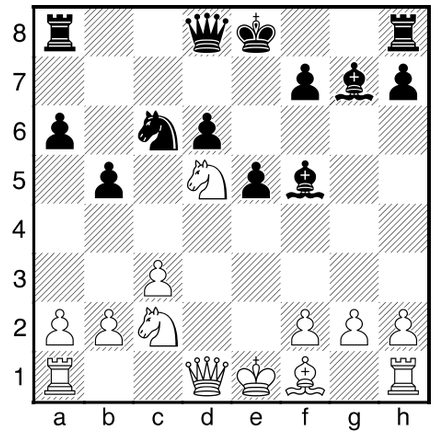
17.♗xf7+ ♖xf7 18.♕g6 ♕f8! 19.♗xh6 ♘c4 20.♘xf7 ♕xf7 21.♕xf7+ ♔xf7 22.♗c1 b4 23.f3 bxc3 24.bxc3 ♘a3 25.♔d2 ♘b5 26.♗b2 a5 27.a4 ♘d6 28.♔d3 ♘c4 29.♗c1 ♘d7 30.h4 e5!? 31.h5 exd4 32.cxd4 ♖b8 33.h6 gxh6 34.♖xh6 ♘f6 35.♖h3 (⌓35.g4 ♖b3+ 36.♔e2.) **35...♖b4 36.g4 ♔g7 37.g5 ♘e4! 38.♔c2 ♘ed6 39.♖a2 ♘f5 40.♔d1 ♘xd4 41.f4 ♘f5 42.♖d3 ♗d6 43.♔e2 ♘b6 44.♗d2 ♖e4+ 45.♔f3**
See Endgame section for this.
45...♘d4+ 46.♖xd4 ♖xd4 47.♗c3 ♔g6 48.♗xd4 ♘c4 49.♔g4

1-0

(38)
Tarjan, James
Spraggett, Kevin

B33
Paul Keres Memorial (1st) Vancouver (9), 26.06.1976

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5 6.♘db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♘a3 b5 9.♗xf6 gxf6 10.♘d5 f5 11.exf5 ♗xf5 12.c3 ♗g7 13.♘c2



It's 1976, when this opening still had that new Sveshnikov smell!

Should Black challenge the ♘d5 with ...♘d7, or commit the ♔ with ...00?

13...♘e7?!
Challenging the ♘d5 makes strategic sense, but doing so immediately costs Black the B−pair, and leaves him with worse pawns, as in Adams−Shirov below.

⌓13...0-0∞ 14.♘ce3 ♗e6 15.♗d3 f5 16.0-0 e4 *(16...♔h8!)* 17.♘f4 ♗f7 18.♗c2 ♗e5 19.♘fd5± Topalov,V (2740)−Carlsen,M (2861) Abidjan (blitz) 2019 (0-1, 28).

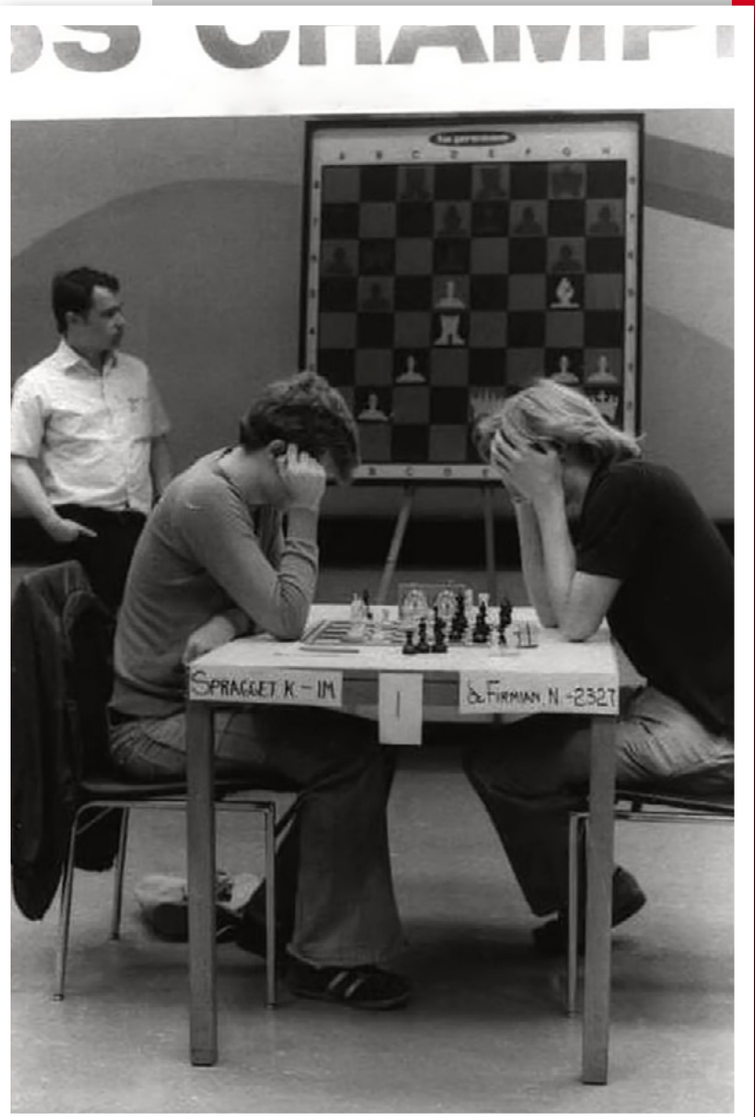
14.♘xe7 ♕xe7??
14...♗xc2! 15.♕xc2 ♕xe7± (½-½, 111) Adams,M (2630)−Shirov,A (2685) Chalkidiki, 1993.

15.♕f3
Fork. This trap has caught more players than Spraggett: at least 55 others, including Somlai,L (2385)−Porper,E (2485) (Borsodtavho, 1991), which continued... 15.♕f3+- ♗xc2 16.♕xa8+ ♕d8 17.♕xa6 0-0 18.♗xb5+- (1-0, 45).

GM Tarjan won this 1st Keres Memorial by two full points, with 9/10.

1-0

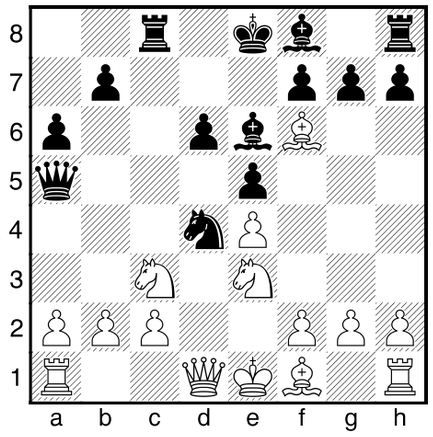
Spraggett - de Firmian
Toronto, 1976.



(photo: Scoones)

(39)
Floyd, Brian
Ivanov, Igor
B33
North Bay int North Bay, 1994

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♘db5 d6 7.♗f4 e5 8.♗g5 a6 9.♘a3 ♗e6?! (⌓9... b5 keeping the ♘a3 offside.) **10.♘c4 ♖c8 11.♘e3 ♕a5 12.♗xf6! ♘d4!**



It's 1994, and the new Sveshnikov smell is gone... but it's still a tricky beast.

13.♗d3!
No tricks for you!!
Trying to save the ♗f6 is disastrous, and must have been what Black was banking on:

13.♕d2? gxf6 14.♗d3 ♖g8 and White can't castle due to ...♘f3+, and f2-f3 allows ...♗h6;

13.♗h4?? ♖xc3□ 14.♕d2 *(14.bxc3 ♕xc3+ 15.♕d2 ♕xa1+-+)* 14...♖xe3+□ 15.fxe3 ♘xc2+□-+; 13.♖b1+- is also strong, but it's not clear the ♖b1 is well placed, while ♗d3 has obvious virtues.

13...gxf6 14.0-0+-
Black has a horrible Sveshnikov. Ivanov tried well from here, but White continued to play better and won.

14...♖xc3 15.bxc3 ♕xc3 16.♕h5 ♗g7 17.a4! 0-0 18.♖ab1 ♕c7 19.♖b4 ♖b8 20.♖fb1 ♘c6 21.♘d5!
Offering an exchange for a winning light−square attack.

21...♗xd5 22.exd5 ♘xb4

left: Boris Spassky, Igor Ivanov *right: Rosentalis, Shirov*

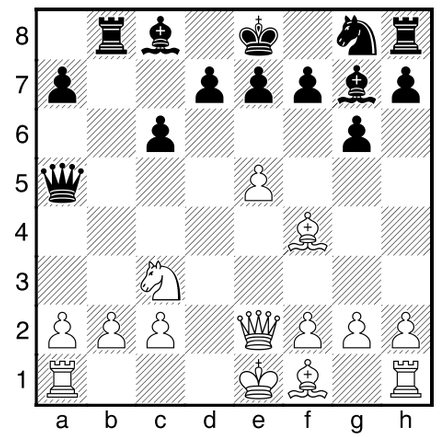
1994 North Bay

23.♕xh7+ ♔f8 24.♖xb4 f5 25.♕xf5 ♖e8 26.g3 a5 27.♖g4 ♕e7 28.♖xg7!
The finish might be 28.♖xg7 ♔xg7 29.♕h7+ ♔f6 30.♕h6#.

1-0

(40)
Bolduc, Steve
Ivanov, Igor
B34
Quebec-ch Montreal (8), 18.06.1988

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♗g7 6.♗e3 ♘f6 7.♘xc6 bxc6 8.e5 ♘g8 9.♗f4? (⌓9.f4∞) **9...♕a5! 10.♕e2** (⌓10.♕d4∓) **10...♖b8!**



Ivanov is attacking the dark squares again. What should White do about b2?

11.0-0-0
Not this... but it was kind of a trick question, since White had no good moves in the diagram: 11.♖b1? ♖xb2 12.♖xb2 ♕xc3+-+; 11.♗d2 hangs e5, but avoids immediate disaster.

11...♖xb2!-+ 12.♕e3
12.♔xb2 ♕b4+ 13.♔c1 *(13.♔a1? ♕xc3+* wins the ♘ and ♗f4.*)* 13...♕xf4+ 14.♕e3 ♕xe5+-.

12...♖b4 13.♖d4 ♖xd4 14.♕xd4 ♘f6!?
Funny guy: taking the ♘f6 loses the pawn and the ♘c3.

15.♗d2 ♘d5 16.♗c4 ♘b6 17.f4 ♕a3+ 18.♔d1 d5 19.♗b3 0-0 20.h3 c5 21.♕f2 c4
Oh, the humanity!!

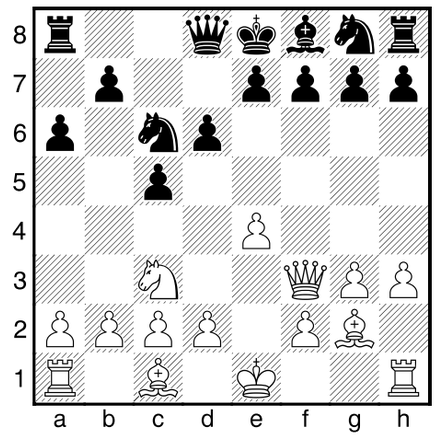
0-1

(41)
Biyiasas, Peter
Timman, Jan H
B50
Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee (6), 22.01.1980

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♘c3 a6 4.g3 ♘c6 5.♗g2 ♗g4 6.h3

Peter Biyasas
Hoogoveen, 1980

♗xf3 7.♕xf3
7.♗xf3 g6 8.d3 ♗g7 9.a4 e6 10.♗g2 ♘ge7= (0-1, 73) Hort−Fischer, Palma de Mallorca, 1970.



...g6 or ...e6

7...g6?!
7...e6± White has the ♗ pair but a lot to prove.

8.e5!
This guarantees White a long−term advantage, minimally because the ♗g2 is now unopposed and unblocked.

This pretty liquidating tactic seems to have been overlooked by two rather good players recently: 8.0-0 ♗g7 9.♘e2 ♘f6 10.c3 ♘d7 11.♖d1 ♘de5 12.♕e3 c4= Firouzja,A (2702)−Carlsen,M (2876) chess24.com INT 2020 (½-½, 67).

8...dxe5?
8...♗g7 9.exd6±;
8...♘xe5 9.♕xb7 ♖b8 10.♕xa6±.

9.♕xc6+!
The real point, and the tactical problem with 7 ...g6: White has a strategically winning endgame.

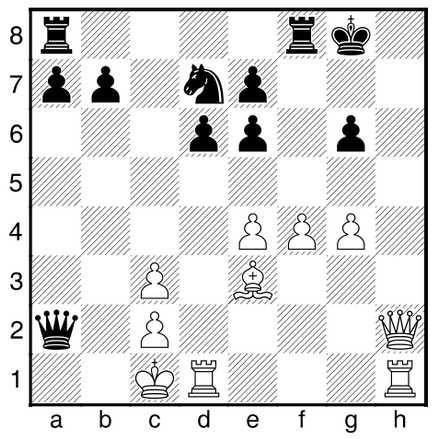
9...bxc6 10.♗xc6+ ♕d7□ 11.♗xd7+± ♔xd7 12.♘a4 ♔c6 13.b3 e6 14.♗b2 f6 15.0-0-0 (15.f4!?) **15...♗d6 16.♖de1 ♘e7 17.♖e4 ♘f5 18.♖c4! ♖ab8 19.♖e1 ♖b4 20.♖ee4 ♖hb8 21.♗a3 ♖4b5 22.c3 ♗f8 23.♖e2 ♔d5 24.g4! ♘d6** (24...♘g7 25.f4!) **25.♖xc5+ ♖xc5 26.♗xc5 ♗h6 27.♔c2 ♗f4 28.♗e3 g5 29.d4 exd4 30.♗xf4! gxf4 31.c4+ ♘xc4 32.bxc4+ ♔xc4 33.♖xe6 d3+ 34.♔d2 ♖b4 35.♖e4+**

1-0

(42)
Preotu, Razvan
Ludwig, John

B76
44th World Open Philadelphia (7), 03.07.2016
Notes: Keith MacKinnon

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♕d2 ♘c6 9.g4 ♗e6 10.♘xe6 fxe6 11.0-0-0 ♘e5 12.♗e2 ♕c8 13.h4 ♘fd7 14.h5 ♘c4 15.♗xc4 ♕xc4 16.hxg6 hxg6 17.f4 ♗xc3 18.bxc3 ♕xa2 19.♕h2



It might be pushing it to classify this as an Opening Position, but when you play the Dragon you have to know some lines a LONG way.

19...♘f6?
19...♔f7□ White is only slightly better after 20.♕h7+ ♔e8 21.e5 *(21.♕xg6+ ♔d8 22.♕g7∞* KM*)* 21...dxe5 22.♕xg6+ ♔d8∞ 23.♗c5 *(23.♕e4 ♕a1+ 24.♔d2 ♕a5∞ (*1-0, 56) Iljiushenok,I (2499)−Kanter,E (2375) Kazan, 2016*.)* 23...♔c7 24.♗xe7 ♖xf4 25.♕d3 ♕a1+ 26.♔d2 ♕a6 27.♕xa6= Sivuk,V (2532)−Jones,G (2657) Gjakova, 2016 (½-½, 66).

20.♗d4 e5
Black puts up the best defence, but it's too late.

editor − nowhere to run and nowhere to hide: 20...♔f7 21.♗xf6□ exf6 *(21...♔xf6 22.♕h7+-)* 22.♕h7+□ ♔e8 23.♕xb7+- threatening ♕xa8 and ♖h7, both mating; those edge−♖s are useless defenders.

21.fxe5 dxe5 22.♕xe5□
editor − 22.♗xe5? ♕a1+ 23.♔d2 ♖ad8+ 24.♗d4 ♖xd4+! 25.cxd4 ♕xd4+= White's edge−♖s are no help against the perpetual checks.

22...♕a3+ 23.♔b1 ♕d6 24.♕g5 ♘xe4 25.♕h6 ♔f7 26.♖hf1+ ♘f6
26...♔e6 27.♕xg6+ ♔d7 28.♕xe4+-.

27.♗xf6 ♕b6+ 28.♔c1 exf6 29.♕h7+

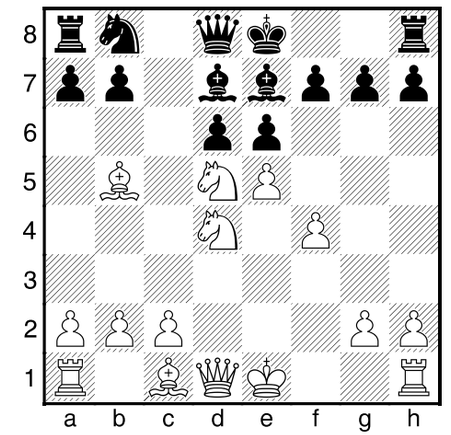
1-0

(43)
Sambuev, Bator
Sethuraman, SP

B82
Edmonton 11th Edmonton (9), 26.06.2016

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.f4 ♗e7 7.♗b5+!?
A tricky move which was played a few times by Dutch GM John Van der Weil in the 1990s, but has nearly disappeared since Black now usually plays 6...a6, which is what Kasparov always played.

7...♗d7 (7...♘bd7? 8.e5!+-) **8.e5 ♘d5?!** (⌓8...dxe5 9.fxe5 ♘d5=) **9.♘xd5**



White has played a Sicilian sideline, and Black has to figure out the correct sequence of exchanges.

9...exd5?
9...♗xb5? 10.♘xe7 ♗a6 11.♘xe6! fxe6 12.exd6+-;

9...dxe5□ best, but not as good as trading on the previous move, because here the ♘d5 has extra options:
10.♘xe7!? exd4 11.♕xd4± ♗xb5 12.♕xg7 ♖f8□ *(12...♔xe7?? 13.♕g5++-)* 13.♘g8±;

10.♘xe6 fxe6 *(10...♕a5+?*

11.♗d2+- the fork on c7 defends the ♗b5*)* 11.♕h5+ g6 12.♕xe5± with an advantage at no cost.

10.e6!+-
If Black had first exchanged on e5 then we take off the pawns on f4 and d6; this difference is that here the d6-pawn does not allow the black ♕ to defend d5 after ...♗xb5, and that matters.

10...♗c6
10...♗xb5 11.exf7+ ♔xf7 12.♕h5+ g6 13.♕xd5+ ♔e8 and takes on b5 with an extra pawn and a winning advantage.

10...fxe6 11.♘xe6+- ♗h4+ *(11...♕a5+ 12.♗d2 ♕xb5? 13.♘c7++-)* 12.g3 ♕e7 13.♗xd7+ *(13.0-0!)* 13...♔xd7 14.f5 ♗f6 15.♕xd5 ♘c6 16.0-0 ♖ae8 17.♗f4 g5 18.♖fe1 gxf4 19.♘c5+ 1-0 Klinger,J (2450)−Ammann,P (2220) Velden, 1994.

11.exf7+ ♔xf7

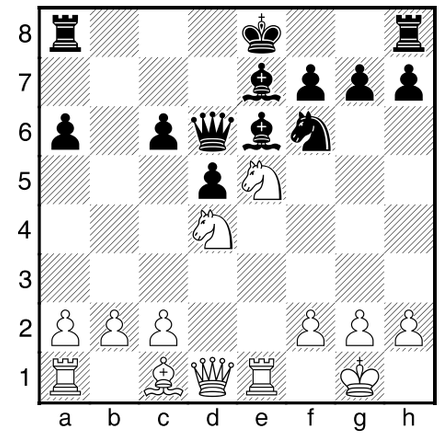
12.♗xc6 bxc6 13.♘xc6 ♘xc6 14.♕xd5+ ♔f8 15.♕xc6+-
White is up two pawns for nothing and converted with no drama.

(1-0, 58)

Edmonton 2016
Sethuramon, Shankland, Valencia, Haessel

(44)
Anderson, Frank
Hayes, Rea
C09
CAN-ch Vancouver (3), 25.08.1951

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.exd5 exd5 5.♘gf3 ♘c6 6.♗b5 a6 7.♗xc6+ bxc6 8.0-0 ♗e6 9.dxc5 ♗xc5 10.♘b3 ♗e7 11.♘bd4 ♕d6 12.♖e1 ♘f6 13.♘e5



What should White do after ...c5? After ...♖c8?

13...c5
13...♖c8 14.♘xf7 *(14.♗f4* is also very strong.*)* 14...♔xf7 *(14...♗xf7 15.♘f5+-)* 15.♖xe6+-.

14.♘xf7□+- ♔xf7 15.♘xe6□
15.♖xe6?? ♕d7∓.

15...♘e4 16.♘f4
Simplest. 16.♘c7! wins too, but is unnecessarily tricky, 16...♖ad8 17.♕f3+ ♗f6 18.♗f4+-.

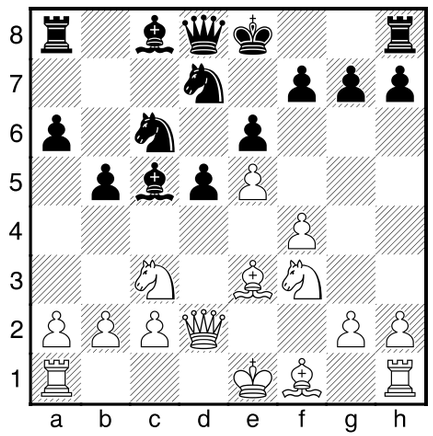
16...♖hd8 17.c4! dxc4 18.♕c2 ♘f6 19.♕xc4+ ♔e8 20.♘e6

1-0

(45)
Yuan, Yuanling
Repkova, Eva

C11
41st Olympiad Tromso (11), 14.08.2014
Notes: WIM Yuanling Yuan

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 a6 6.♘f3 c5 7.♗e3 ♘c6 8.♕d2 b5 9.dxc5 ♗xc5



What happens if 10.♗d3?

10.♗d3
I had prepared for this line well before the game.

My opponent threw me a questionable look after I played ♗d3, clearly thinking that I had just blundered; but she did spent 15 minutes before replying with the natural move.

editor − Negi's book has excellent short strategic summaries. About this position he writes:

"When going through the variations ahead, you should keep in mind that White's main strategic plan involves playing against Black's 'bad' light−squared bishop. As long as Black's counterplay (such as ...f6 or ... g5) can be kept under control, virtually any endgame with a white knight established on d4 and the black bishop still on the board will be more pleasant for White. The computer does not always agree, and I cannot say if the machine is objectively right or not. What I do know is that a practical game, such positions are always easier to play with White, who can improve his position slowly, while Black's position can feel suffocating."

− Parimarjan Negi,

GM Repertoire 1.e4 vol.1 (Quality Chess, 2014).

10...d4?
A move that turns out to be a mistake. 10...♕b6 is the correct response for Black.

editor − Negi's book gives several pages of analysis here, beginning with: 10...♕b6 11.♗f2! ♗b7!? (or 11 ...b4, or 11...00) 12.a3!N.

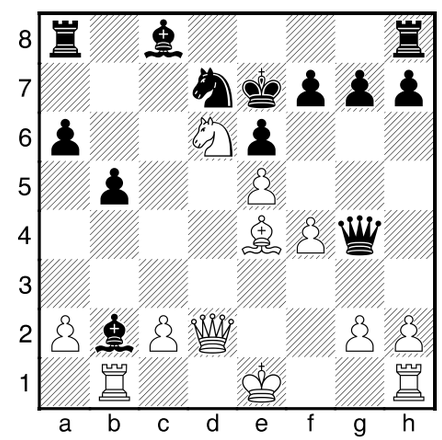
11.♘xd4
After I played this she spent 30-40 minutes thinking, during which I toured the playing hall and watched some of the final battles of the Olympiad.

11...♘xd4 12.♘e4
This is the critical response, threatening ♗xd4, followed by ♘d6 and ♗e4, with a double−attack on the ♗d4 and ♖a8.

12...♕h4+
editor − 12...♗b6 13.♘d6+ ♔f8 14.♗e4+-;
editor − 12...♕b6 13.♘xc5 ♘xc5 *(13...♕xc5 14.c3±)* 14.♗xd4 ♘xd3+ 15.♕xd3 and White is just up a ♙.

13.♗f2 ♕g4
editor − 13...♘xc2+N 14.♗xc2 *(14.♕xc2? ♗b4+∓)* 14...♗xf2+ 15.♕xf2 ♕xf2+ 16.♔xf2 "Black falls a long way short of equality in the endgame" − Negi.
16...♔e7 White has a big lead in development and some weak dark squares to go after, but Black might still hold.

14.♗xd4 ♗xd4 15.♘d6+ ♔e7 16.♗e4+- ♗xb2 17.♖b1



17... ♖a7
17...♗a3 18.♗xa8 ♗c5 19.♗f3 ♕g6 20.♘e4 ♖d8 21.♖d1 ♗b6 22.♕b4+ 1-0 Karjakin,S − Topalov,V Kiev (rapid), 2013.

18.♖xb2
The last few moves were forced.

18...♖c7 19.0-0 ♘c5?
Another blunder. However, White was already much better in this position.

20.h3 ♕g3 21.♘f5+!
The win was simple from here on.

21...exf5 22.♕d6+ ♔e8 23.♗c6+ ♗d7 24.♕xc7 ♕e3+ 25.♔h1 ♕d4 26.♗xd7+ ♘xd7 27.♖bb1 ♕c5 28.♕b7 ♔e7 29.♖bd1 ♕c8 30.♕a7 ♖d8 31.♖d6 ♕xc2 32.♖fd1 ♕c8 33.♕d4
Threatening ...e6 and then ...♕xg7 then ...♖xe6#. My opponent resigned.

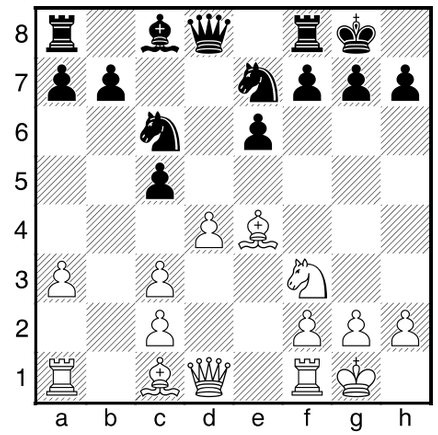
This game was perhaps the most seamless and effortless one I played throughout the entire tournament. Preparing for a few hours before each game eventually pays off.

− Yuanling Yuan

1-0

(46)
Pacey, Kevin
Forget, David
C15
RA November Open Ottawa (4), 10.11.2013

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.a3 ♗xc3+ 5.bxc3 ♘e7 6.♗d3 dxe4 7.♗xe4 c5 8.♘f3 ♘bc6 9.0-0 0-0



Is ♗xh7+ sound?

10.♗xh7+!?
If White had a pawn on e5 then ♗xh7+ would be automatic: it's an obvious win. Here it's not nearly so clear.

10...♔xh7 11.♘g5+
Black has to choose where to put his King: h6, g8 or g6.

11...♔g8??
Noooo! This makes it too too easy.

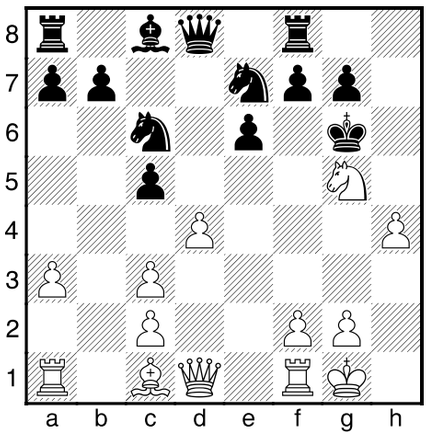
11...♔h6? 12.♘xf7++- White wins the ♕d8 and two pawns for two minor pieces.

Black's only move is 11...♔g6□. White has several tries to continue the attack, starting with bringing out the Queen:

a) 12.♕g4 f5□ 13.♕g3 f4 transposes to the next line.;

b) 12.♕d3+ f5 *(12...♘f5! 13.g4 f6 14.gxf5+ exf5 15.♘h3 ♔h7∓)* 13.♕g3 f4! *(13...♔f6? 14.♗f4↑)* 14.♗xf4 ♘f5□ 15.♕g4 *(15.♕h3?! ♖h8 16.♕d3 e5!∓; 15.♕d3!? e5 16.♗c1 cxd4 17.g4 dxc3 18.gxf5+ ♗xf5 19.♕g3∞)* 15...♘h6□ 16.♕g3□ ♘f5=;

But the most testing continuation is 12.h4!: *Analysis Diagram*



This lets White play for more, and may actually lead to an advantage, though the position is too complex for a definitive analysis.

White's immediate threat is h5+, forcing the Black ♔ off its only safe square. I'll consider three defences:

a) 12...♘f5 trying to make space for the ♔ on e7;
b) 12...♖h8 to stop h4-h5+;
c) 12...f5 stopping ♕g4.

a) 12...♘f5? 13.♕g4! ♕d5

King and Queen

Danny King** and **Yuanling Yuan

(13...♘h6? 14.h5+ ♔f6 15.♘h7+ ♔e7 16.♕xg7+-; 13...♔f6 14.♘xe6!+-) 14.♘xe6+! *(14.h5+? ♔f6∓)* 14...♔h7 15.♘xf8+ ♔g8 16.♕h5!+-;

b) 12...♖h8 13.♕g4□ *(13.♕d3+? ♘f5□∓)* 13...f5□ *(13...e5? 14.♘e6+ ♔f6 15.♗g5+ ♔g6 16.♗xe7+ and #2.)* 14.♕g3 ♔f6 *(14...f4!? 15.♕xf4!↑)* 15.♖e1!→;

c) 12...f5 13.h5+ ♔f6□ 14.♖e1:

14...♖h8 15.♕e2 threatening ♕xe6 mating. 15...♕d6 (15...♕d5 16.♗f4!+-, Δc4 and ♖ad1) 16.dxc5 ♕e5 17.♗e3 and White still has a strong attack, the key point being that 17...f4?? 18.♗d4+- wins the Black ♕ by deflecting the ♘c6;

14...cxd4 15.cxd4 ♕xd4 16.♕e2□ f4 *(16...♕xa1?? 17.♕xe6+ ♗xe6 18.♖xe6#; 16...♕d6 17.♕f3! ♕d4 18.♖b1* It's hard to find good moves for Black. Although White is still down a piece for a pawn, he can get some material back with ♘h7+.*)* 17.c3 ♕a4 *(17...♕e5 18.♘h7+±)* 18.♘xe6 ♗xe6 19.♕xe6+ ♔g5 20.♖b1 and the position is still unclear: for the piece, White has an exposed Black ♔ but only one pawn.

Conclusion: ♗xh7+ is not losing, and very seriously tests Black (and White); but White did have decent (but boring) alternatives, such as ♕d3 or even ♖e1.

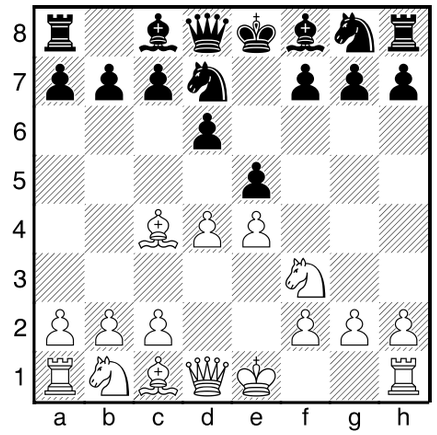
12.♕h5+- ♖e8 13.♕h7+
13.♕xf7+ ♔h8 14.♖e1+- also wins.

13...♔f8 14.♕h8+ ♘g8 15.♘h7+ ♔e7 16.♕xg7 ♔d7 17.♗g5 ♘ce7 18.dxc5

1-0

(47)
Spraggett, Kevin
Boileau, Doug
C41
Quebec-ch Montreal, (2), 1973

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 ♘d7 4.♗c4



It's a Philidor. What should Black play, and what should Black NOT play?

4...♗e7??
Definitely not this.
⌓4...c6 controlling d5;
⌓4...exd4 5.♕xd4± with more space and easier development;
⌓4...♘b6 5.♗b3±;
4...h6? Bad, but the refutation is much harder to see than the game mistake: 5.dxe5 dxe5 6.♗xf7+□-+ ♔xf7 7.♘xe5+ ♔f6 8.♘c3□+- (8.♕d4? c5□ *(8...♕e8?? 9.♘xd7++-* (½-½, 47) Xu,E (2056)−Brajkovic,N (2005) Guelph, 2019.*)* 9.♘xd7+ ♔e7± (½-½, 29) Kosteniuk,A (2469)−Skripchenko,A (2456) Warsaw (rapid) 2004.) 8...♔xe5 9.♕d5+ ♔f6 10.♕f5+ ♔e7 11.♘d5+ ♔d6 12.♗f4+ ♔c6 13.♕e6+ *(13.0-0-0+-)* 13...♗d6 14.♘b4+□+-.

5.dxe5 dxe5?
5...♘xe5 6.♘xe5 dxe5 7.♕h5 g6 8.♕xe5 ♘f6 9.♗h6+-;
5...♘b6!? 6.♗b3±.

6.♕d5
No good way to defend f7

1-0

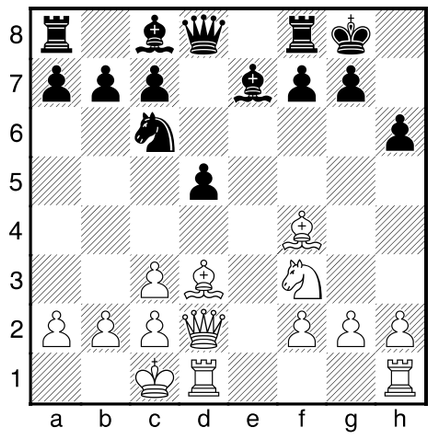
(48)
Anderson, Frank
Mallinson, Stuart
C42
Toronto-ch Toronto (4), 04.1947

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.♘c3 ♘xc3 6.dxc3 ♗e7 7.♗d3 ♘c6 8.♗f4 0-0
8...♗f6 and ...♗e6 are more flexible.

9.♕d2 h6 10.0-0-0
10.♗xh6 is worth analyzing for anyone who plays either side of this.

10...d5

10...♗g4 11.♗xh6 ♗xf3 12.gxf3 gxh6 13.♖hg1++-.



Can White take on h6?

11.♗xh6!+-
11.h4 wins too, but the im−mediate capture is more direct.

11...gxh6 12.♕xh6 f5□ 13.♗c4□
13.g4? is clever, and almost works, but just too slow 13...♕d6! 14.♕h5 ♔g7□ 15.gxf5 ♕h6+□-+.

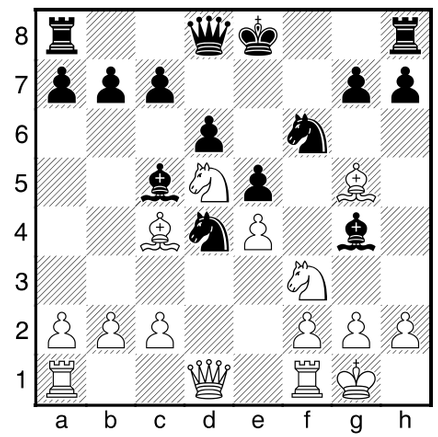
13...♖f7
13...♖f6 14.♗xd5+□ ♕xd5 15.♕g5+□+-.

14.♗xd5 ♕e8 15.♖he1
and ♘g5.

1-0

(49)
Felix, Chris
Banks, Anthony
C63
2013 Charlottetown Open (4), 05.05.2013
Notes: Chris Felix

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 f5 4.d3 fxe4 5.dxe4 ♘f6 6.0-0 ♗c5 7.♗c4 d6 8.♘c3 ♗g4 9.♗g5 ♘d4 10.♘d5



Should Black:
A) Castle kingside to prepare an attack down the f−file?
B) Immediately capture the ♘f3 to damage White's Kingside and gain a tempo off the ♖f1 with ♗h3?
C) Play ...c6 to force the ♘d5 away?

10...♘xf3+
White's play in the game shows why this isn't the best.

A) 10...0-0?? (loses a piece) 11.♘xf6+ ♔h8 12.♘xg4 ♘xf3+ 13.♕xf3! ♕xg5 14.♕e2+-;

B) 10...♗xf3 (not bad, though White seems to keep a plus.) 11.gxf3 c6 12.c3 cxd5 13.cxd4 dxc4 14.dxc5 0-0 15.cxd6±;

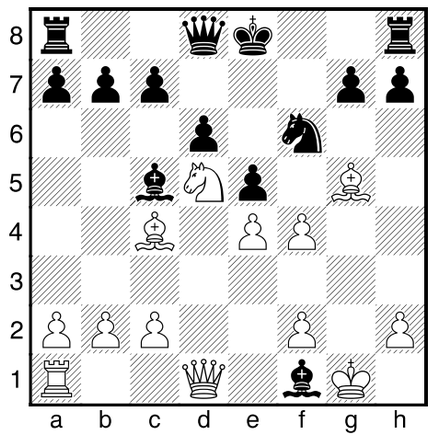
C) 10...c6! 11.♘xf6+ *(≤11.♘e3 ♘xf3+! 12.gxf3 ♗h3!∓* unlike the game, this line does not allow White a quick counterattack, so Black's better structure dominates.*)* 11... gxf6 12.♗h4 (helps block the g−file) (≤12.♗e3 ♘xf3+ 13.gxf3 ♗h3 14.♖e1 d5! 15.♗f1 *(15.exd5?? ♖g8+-+)* 15...♖g8+ 16.♔h1 ♗xf1 17.♖xf1 d4∓) 12...♘xf3+ *(12...♕d7! Δ13.♗xf6? ♗xf3 14.gxf3 ♕h3-+)* 13.gxf3 ♗h5 Black will castle Queenside and have the initiative after a well−timed ...f5. *(13...♗h3? 14.f4!⇄* as in the game.*)*

Max Euwe ***1949 University of Toronto simul***
Frank Anderson *is third from right. (photo: Hart House)*

11.gxf3 ♗h3
⌓11...♗h5.

12.f4!!
editor − !! The move of the game: the threat of ♘xf6+ and ♕h5+ is so strong that Black has to give back an exchange to survive.

12...♗xf1



editor: ***Attacking Practice***
By material count, White is down the exchange, but since neither of Black's ♖s is doing anything useful, it's best to think of this position as White being (temporarily) up one minor piece with the Black ♔ caught in the center.

13.♘xf6+?
⌓13.♔xf1→:

a) 13...h5 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.♕f3!+- e.g. 15...♕d6 16.♗xf6 gxf6 17.♘xc7+!! ♕xc7 18.♕xf6+- (X♖h8 and ♗b5+);

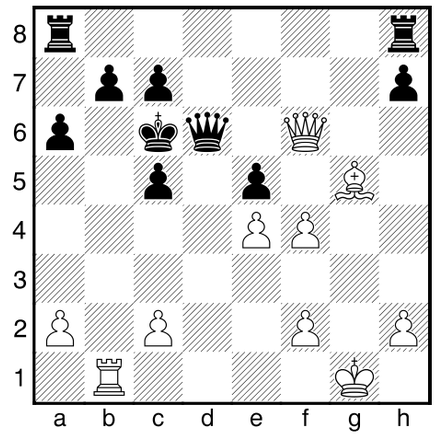
b) 13...exf4 14.♗xf6 gxf6 15.♕h5+ ♔d7 *(15...♔f8 16.♕h6+ ♔f7 17.♘xc7++-)* 16.♕f5+ ♔c6 17.b4 ♗d4 18.♘e7+ ♕xe7 19.♕b5#;

c) 13... ♖f8 14.♗xf6 *(14.b4!)* 14... gxf6 15.♕h5+ ♔d7 *(15...♖f7 16.♘b6+-* White wins a whole ♖*)* 16.♕f5+ ♔c6 *(16...♔e8 17.♕e6+ ♕e7 18.♕xe7#)* 17.a4 (threatening ♗b5#) 17...a6 18.♗b5+! (anyway!) 18...axb5 19.axb5+ ♔xb5 20.♖xa8 ♕xa8 21.♘xc7++-.

13...gxf6 14.♕h5+ ♔d7 15.♕f7+ ♔c6
15...♔c8 16.♗e6+ ♔b8 17.♗xf6 and after ...♕e8, ...♕f8 or ...♖f8 White will have the better endgame.

16.♕d5+
16.♔xf1 was a better move, keeping the pressure on the black king. ♕d5+ was inaccurate, giving Black an advantage.

16...♔b6 17.b4 ♗xc4 18.bxc5+ dxc5 19.♕xc4 a6 20.♕e6+ ♕d6 21.♖b1+ ♔c6 22.♕xf6



The attack is over, I'll end up in the endgame an exchange down, but with a two passed pawns.

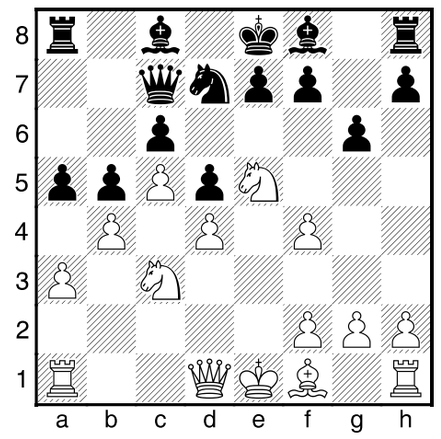
22...♖hg8 23.♔f1 ♖g6 24.♕f7 exf4 25.♗xf4 ♖f6?
A mistake; ...♖f8 was much better. The position is equal now.

26.♕b3 ♕xf4?
26...♖xf4 27.♕xb7+ ♔d7 28.♕xa8 ♕d4 29.♕d5+ ♕xd5 30.exd5 This would have been a good endgame.
27.♕d5#

1-0

(50)
Botez, Alexandra
Calugar, Arthur
D15
CYCC 2012 U18 Victoria (5), 2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 a6 5.c5 ♘bd7 6.♗f4 ♘h5 7.e3 ♘xf4 8.exf4 b6 9.b4 g6 10.♕a4 ♕c7 11.♘e5 b5 12.♕d1 a5 13.a3



What's better: ....♘xe5 or ...f6?

13...f6??
⩲13...♗g7 followed by ...00 and ...f6;

⩲13...♘xe5 14.fxe5 ♗g7 Again, followed by ...00 and ...f6. In both lines, White has space, but long−term the ♘c3 will be no match for Black's DSB, which will attack on either the h8-a1 or h6-c1 diagonals.

14.♘d3?
14.♘xc6!! is excellent, and the only move that doesn't leave Black better: 14...♕xc6 15.♗xb5 ♕e6+ 16.♔d2!± White has two pawns for the ♘, a lead in development, and probably wins the d5-pawn with ♕f3 and ♖e1. SF12 rates this position as +2.5.

14...♗g7 15.h4 e5! 16.f5 exd4 17.♘e2 0-0 18.♘xd4 ♘e5 19.♘xe5? fxe5-+ 20.♘xb5 ♕d8!
Black can take - 20... cxb5 21.♕xd5+ ♔h8 22.♕xa8 e4 - but this move leaves White with no play or hope.

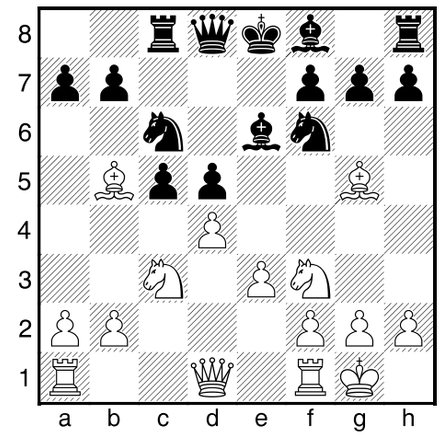
21.♘d6 ♗xf5 22.b5 e4 23.bxc6 ♗c3+! 24.♔e2 ♗g4+
Arthur went on to win the U18 CYCC with 7/7

0-1

Arthur Calugar
2012 Pan-Ams

(51)
Nickoloff, Bryon
Dougherty, Michael
D32
Toronto op Toronto (6), 1993

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♗g5! (I don't think Black can equalize now.) **5...♘f6 6.♘c3 ♘c6 7.e3** (7.♗xf6! is good too.) **7...♗e6 8.♗b5 ♖c8 9.0-0**



...h6 or something else?

9...h6?
Black is dangerously far behind in development, and getting castled will probably cost at least a pawn (to ♕a4 if nothing else); but this makes things worse.

⩲9...cxd4 10.♘xd4 or 10.♕xd4;

9...♗e7 10.dxc5 0-0 (10...♗xc5 11.♗xf6 ♕xf6 12.♘xd5± *(12.♖c1±)*) 11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.b4±.

10.♗xf6! ♕xf6 11.e4!+-
And the rest of this short game is extended initiative which White plays perfectly.

11...dxe4
11...cxd4 12.♘xd5+- ♕d8 13.♘xd4 ♗xd5 14.exd5 ♕xd5 15.♘xc6+- ♕xd1 *(15...bxc6 16.♕xd5+-)* 16.♘xa7++-.

12.♘xe4 ♕f4
12...♕d8 13.dxc5 is a free pawn with a lead in development.

13.♖e1! ♗e7 14.d5! ♖d8! 15.♘c3!
15.d6! also wins.

15...0-0
15...a6 16.♗xc6+ bxc6 17.♖e4 ♕c7 18.♕a4 ♗xd5 19.♘xd5 ♖xd5 20.♖ae1 ♖d7 21.♘e5+- somehow, all the tactics just seem to work for White.

16.♕c1!

So subtle, and completey crushing.

16...♕g4
16...♕xc1 17.♖axc1 and Black loses one of his ♗s.

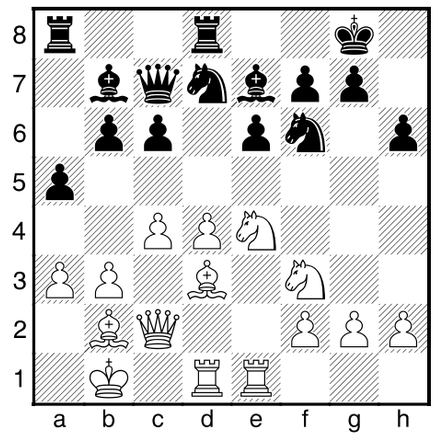
17.♗xc6 ♗d6 18.dxe6 bxc6 19.e7

1-0

(52)
Yang, Kaiqi
Plotkin, Victor
D45
Hart House Reading Week Open, Toronto (3), 19.02.2017

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.♘f3 c6 5.e3 ♘bd7 6.♕c2 ♗e7 7.b3 0-0 8.♗d3 b6 9.e4 dxe4 10.♘xe4 ♗b7 11.♗b2 h6 12.0-0-0!?
Unusual. White normally castles short, but unless Black can force open the b or c−files, the white K isn't in much danger; and Black's Bs don't make much of an impression. On the other hand, Black's ♙h6 gives White a hook to aim at, and his two Bs are already pointed at the Black K.

12...♕c7 (12...b5!? 13.c5)
13.♖he1 a5 14.a3 ♖fd8 15.♔b1
Both sides have castled, so it's not really an opening anymore, but this position is a test of White's unusual opening decision to castle long.



...c5 or ...♘xe4

15...c5?!
⌓15...♘xe4 16.♗xe4 ♘f6 17.♗d3 c5∞ or 17...b5∞.

16.d5!
A very strong pawn sac.

16...exd5 17.♘c3!
17.cxd5 ♗xd5 18.♘c3 *(18.♘d4?!; 18.♘ed2 ♗f8∓* and Black's play against the White King should come first.*)* 18...♗e6∞.

17...dxc4?
17...d4?? 18.♘b5 and the ♕ and ♗e7 are hanging.;

17...♗d6 18.cxd5 gives White a space and development advantage, since the d5-pawn can't be taken: 18...♘xd5?? 19.♘xd5 ♗xd5 20.♗h7++- winning the exposed ♗d5.

18.♗xc4
If Black's Rs were on e8 and d8 then the position would be balanced, but where they are now Black's position may already be beyond saving!

18...♗xf3!
18...♗f8? 19.♕g6!+-; 18...♘f8? 19.♖xd8 ♖xd8 20.♘e5+- wins f7 and the game; e.g. 20...♘d5 *(20...♘e6 21.♘xf7+-)* 21.♘xf7□ ♔xf7 22.♘xd5 ♗xd5 23.♕f5++- material will be equal for one ply, then Black will have to give up the exchange to save himself from the light−square attack.

19.gxf3 ♘f8 20.♘d5 ♘xd5 21.♗xd5 ♖xd5□
21...♖ac8? 22.♖g1+- Black's kingside is toast; e.g. 22...♘e6 *(22...♘g6 23.♕xg6+-)* 23.♖xg7+ ♘xg7 24.♕c3+-.

22.♖xd5±
White is up an exchange for a pawn and with more active pieces.

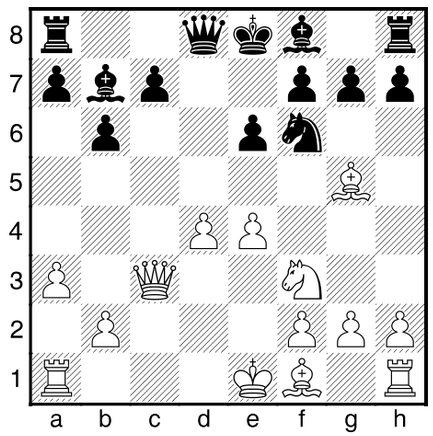
22...♖d8 23.♕f5 ♖xd5 24.♕xd5 ♘e6 25.♗e5! ♕c8 26.f4 g6 27.f5!+- (Trading a doubled pawn to degrade Black's kingside and open another file for the R.) **27...gxf5 28.♗b2 ♕c7 29.♕xf5 ♕xh2 30.♕f3 ♕h4 31.♖g1+ ♔f8 32.♖h1 ♕g5 33.♕a8+ ♗d8 34.♖d1 h5 35.f4 ♕h4 36.♔a2 ♔e8 37.♕c6+** Materially, Black is ahead, with NPP for the R, but his K is so exposed that there's no way to save the game. In fact, almost 1/2 of White's next 30 moves were checks, which might indicate time trouble, but certainly shows who had the initiative.

(1−0, 78)

(53)
Spraggett, Kevin
Karklins, Andrew

E12
Toronto Int. Toronto (5), 31.07.1985

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.a3 ♗b7 5.♘c3 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.♕c2 ♘xc3 8.♕xc3 ♘d7 9.♗g5 ♘f6 10.e4!



White is playing gambit style against a QID; what should Black do?

10...♖c8?
10...c5?? 11.♗b5+ ♔e7 12.e5+-;

10...♘xe4?? 11.♗b5+ c6 12.♗xc6++-;

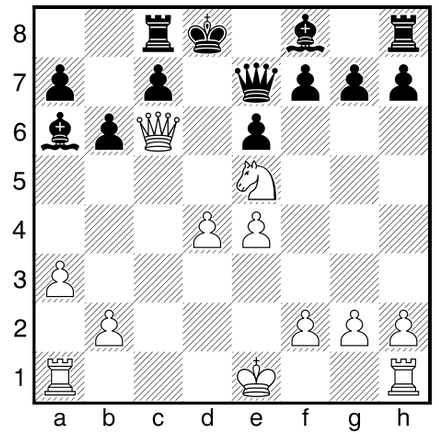
10...♗xe4?? 11.♗b5+ ♔e7 12.♘e5! With such a huge lead in development White even threatens d5 and 000. 12...♗xg2 13.♗c6+-;

10...a6! 11.♗d3± (1-0, 29) Spraggett,K (2560)−Speelman,J (2530) Taxco 1985; which was about a month before the present game; so it seems likely the next sequence was part of Spraggett's preparation.

11.♗xf6! ♕xf6
This natural move is bad, but only because of a very hard−to−see reason.

12.♗a6!!± ♗xa6□
13.♕c6+ ♔d8
13...♔e7 14.♘e5 ♖d8 15.♕xc7+ ♔e8 16.♕c6+ ♔e7 17.♕a4 ♗b7
(17...♗d3 18.♖c1!!+-)
18.♕xa7+-.

14.♘e5 ♕e7
This next sequence deserves a diagram:



15.d5□ ♕e8 16.♘xf7+□ ♕xf7 17.dxe6□ ♕e8 18.♖d1+□
18.0-0-0+?? ♗d6-+ and ♖xd6 would self−pin the ♕.

Kevin Spraggett
1984 Canadian Zonal

En passant

18...♔e7
18...♗d6 19.♖xd6++-.

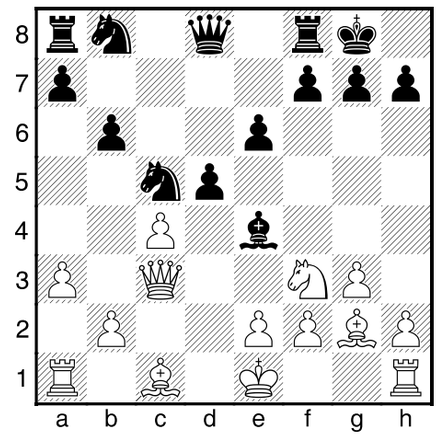
19.♖d7+ ♔f6 20.e7+!
AlphaZero couldn't have done it better!

1-0

(54)
Spraggett, Kevin
Hebert, Jean

E32
Montreal match (4), 1985

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.♘c3 ♗b4 5.♕c2 ♗b7 6.a3 ♗xc3+ 7.♕xc3 0-0 8.g3 c5 9.dxc5 ♘e4 10.♕c2 ♘xc5 11.♗g2 ♗e4 12.♕c3 d5



Castle, or try for more with ♗g5?

13.♗g5?? d4□-+
White resigned.

The ♘f3 defends both ♗s, so it doesn't control d4. Here are the gory details after 13...d4:

a) 14.♘xd4 ♕xg5-+;

b) 14.♗xd8 dxc3 15.b4 *(15.♗e7 cxb2-+)* 15...♘b3-+;

c) 14.♕xd4 ♕xd4 15.♘xd4 ♗xg2-+;

d) 14.♕b4 the only square that doesn't allow ...f6 followed by ...♘b2 forking the ♕ and ♖, but 14...f6 15.♗d2 ♘c6 16.♕b5 a6 traps the ♕.

0-1

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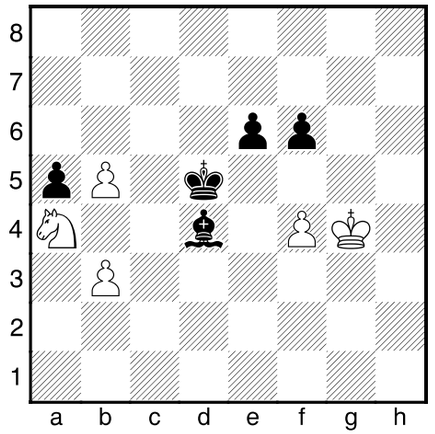
Endings

by John Upper

This section includes Canadians playing endgames: three pieces or less. Positions are sorted by material, from fewer to more pieces.

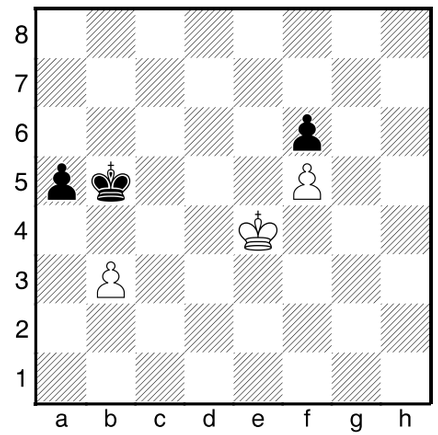
(55)
Djerkovic, Miladin
Short, Nigel D

C13
RACC Olympic Waive (5), 23.06.2012



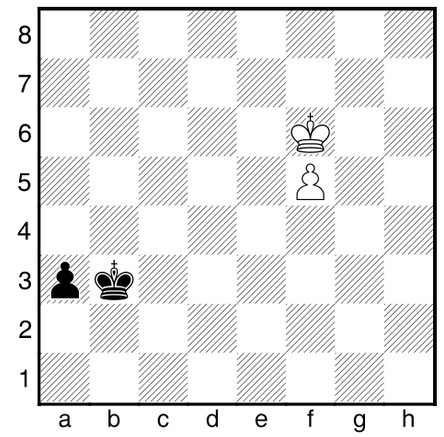
37.f5!= (White had 44 sec (+5 sec increment) left.) **37...e5 38.♔f3 e4+ 39.♔f4 e3 40.♔f3 ♔e5 41.b6 ♔d6 42.♔e2 ♔c6 43.♔d3 ♗xb6 44.♘xb6 ♔xb6 45.♔xe3** (White 23s v Black 3m12s) **45...♔b5 46.♔e4??**
46.♔d3= ♔b4 47.♔c2=;
46.♔d4= ♔b4 47.♔d5 ♔xb3

48.♔e6 transposes to the game.



46...♔b4??
46...♔c5□ Black wins by first shouldering the White King back before going after whichever pawn is left undefended:
47.♔d3 ♔d5, or
47.♔e3 ♔b4-+.

47.♔d5□=
♔xb3 48.♔e6 a4 49.♔xf6 a3



50.♔f7??
ARRGH!! Time pressure and being SO close to a draw against a chess legend do terrible things to the nerves.

50.♔g7?? self−pins to lose a critical tempo: 50...a2 51.f6 a1♕-+;

50.♔e7□ a2 51.f6□ a1♕ 52.f7□ ♕g7 53.♔e8□ ♕e5+ 54.♔f8 *(54.♔d7=)* 54...♔c4 55.♔g8 ♕e6 56.♔h8= If Black's K was much closer (e.g. on f5) this would be a win since Black can force mate after allowing the promotion; but not here.

50...a2 51.f6 a1♕ 52.♔g6
52.♔e7 ♕e5+-+.

52...♔c4 53.f7 ♕h8□+-

0-1

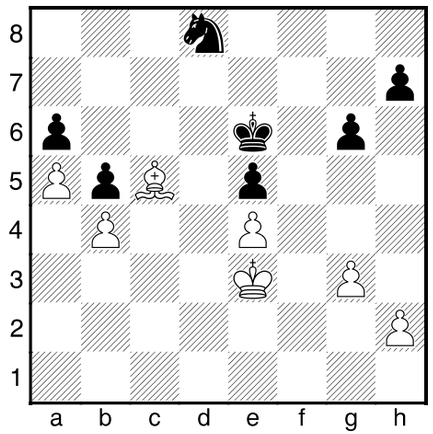
Just asking you to prove it...

Miladin Djerkovic *earned but did not score the draw vs* ***Nigel Short.***

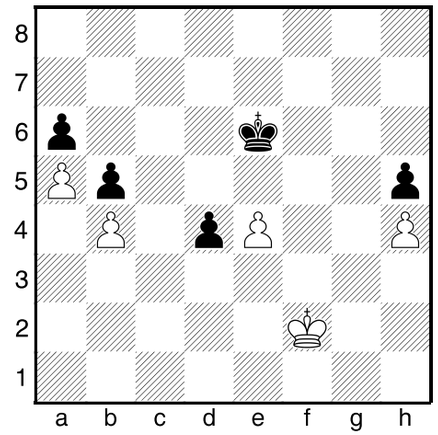
(56)
Zhou, Qiyu
Sambuev, Bator

A84
Quebec Amateur Montreal, (3), 11.10.2014

49.♔e3



editor − From here on the position is 0.00 all the way.
49...♘b7 50.♗b6 ♘d6 51.♔d3 ♘c4 52.♗c5 ♔f6 53.h3 ♔g5 54.♗e7+ ♔h5 55.♗f6 ♔h6 56.♗e7 ♔g7 57.♗c5 ♔f7 58.♗f2 ♘d6 59.♗c5 ♘e8 60.♔e3 ♘g7 61.♔d3 ♘e6 62.♗e3 ♔f6 63.♔e2 h5 64.♔f3 ♘d4+ 65.♔f2 g5 66.h4 gxh4 67.gxh4 ♔e6 68.♗xd4 exd4



69.♔e2□
The d3 and e5 squares are "mined" — whoever steps on one first loses — but if neither does it's a draw.

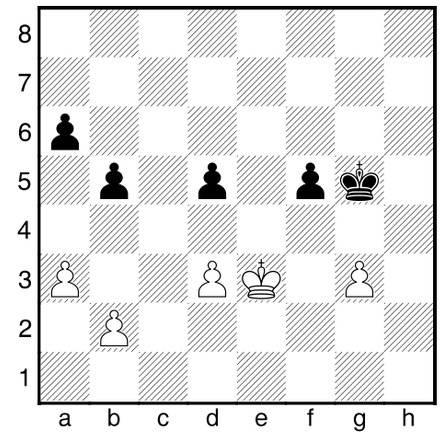
69...♔d6
As of the time of annotating this game, I've played six times against Bator. This is my only draw against him. :) −***Qiyu Zhou***

½-½

(57)
Vettese, Nicholas
Krnan, Tomas

C50
Oakville Invitational Norm
Oakville, (4.3), 21.02.2020

37.hxg5 ♔xg5



Glory or safety?

38.♔d4??
38.b4!? ♔g4□ 39.♔f2 f4 40.gxf4 ♔xf4 *(40...d4?? 41.f5 ♔xf5 42.♔f3+-)* 41.♔e2 d4 42.♔f2□ ♔g4□ 43.♔g2□=.

38.♔f3= a5 *(38...d4?? 39.b4+-)* 39.b3=.

38...♔g4□-+ 39.♔e5
39.♔xd5 ♔xg3 40.♔e5 f4 Black wins the race.

39...d4□
39...♔xg3?? 40.♔xf5 ♔f3 41.♔e5+-.

After 39...d4 Black wins:
40.♔f6 ♔xg3 41.♔xf5 ♔f3 Black wins the d−pawn, or

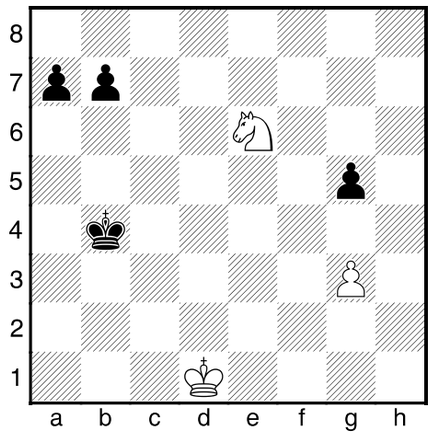
40.♔xd4 ♔xg3 41.♔e3 f4+ 42.♔e2 ♔g2 wins this "race".

0-1

(58)
Sapozhnikov, Roman
Upper, John

C06
National Capital Open, Ottawa (5), 06.12.2009

66.♘xe6



66...g4???

[editor − the following is a revised version of analysis I sent to engame guru Karsten Müller, which he published in his Endgame Corner column on Chess Cafe.]

What could be more obvious than ...g4: saving the pawn (for now) and putting it on the square the most tempi from the ♘?

I've since reviewed this endgame with the 7-piece Lomonosov tablebases and discovered that of Black's 12 legal moves in the diagram only three of them are losing, the others are ...♔a4 and ...♔a5. In fact, if it was White to move in the diagram it would *still* be a draw.

Unfortunately, when I played the game I had read only the first two pages of the chapter on ♘ endings in *Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual*; on the fourth page he shows that when pawns are head−to−head (like the g3/g4 duo are now) the ♘ can safely defend its ♙ without being attacked, because then the Black ♙g4 prevents the opponent's ♔ from attacking both the ♘h5/f5 and the ♙g3. On its own, that would still make it a draw, but the tempo Black spent on ...g5-g4 allows White to win a queenside ♙ and still get back to defend the ♙g3, winning.

There are three key ideas in this ending:

1. White's only chance to win is to save his g−pawn while stopping Black's queenside pawns.

2. The white King on its own can stop but not capture Black's pawn duo — taking one would allow the other to promote.

3. If Black's ♔ was somehow cut off from the queenside (imagine Black's ♔h3 and g4 pawn vs ♔f2 and g3 pawn) the ♘ could stop both the a and b pawns — it could even win one of them — but it would still be a draw because there would be no way for White to both stop the remaining pawn(s) and win Black's g4-pawn without losing the g3-pawn.Therefore, if Black keeps both queenside pawns and ties either of the white pieces to the defence of g3 then Black cannot lose.

So, Black should be concerned about only one of the following, either: saving both a and b pawns, or stopping White's g−pawn.

66... g4??? is triply bad: it loses a queenside pawn *and* wastes a tempo *and* creates the pawn structure which is easiest for White to defend.

⌓66...a6 or any queenside pawn move which saves them both draws.

⌓66...♔c3 also draws:

67.♘xg5 more or less transposes to the game, *67...♔d3 68.♘h3 ♔e3 69.g4 ♔e4=* the White ♔ takes three moves to defend the g4 pawn, which gives Black enough time to run the queenside pawns, so there's no way to use the ♘ to stop the a+b ♙s without dropping the g♙. If the white ♔ gets in front of the black pawns to stop them then the Black ♔ can oscillate somewhere in the square of the g−pawn.

67.♔e2!? is playing with fire, but objectively no worse 67... a5 68.♘xg5□= a4 69.♘e4+□ ♔c2 70.♘c5 a3 (70...b5 71.♘d3 a3 72.g4 b4!= *(72... a2?? 73.♘b4+ ♔b2 74.♘xa2 ♔xa2 75.g5+-* White promotes with check.*)*) 71.♘d3□= b5 *(71...♔c3 72.♘c1□=)* 72.g4□ ♔c3 73.♘c1□ b4 74.♘a2+ ♔b3 75.g5□ ♔xa2 76.g6 ♔b1 77.g7 a2 78.g8♕ a1♕ 79.♕g1+ ♔a2 80.♕a7+=.

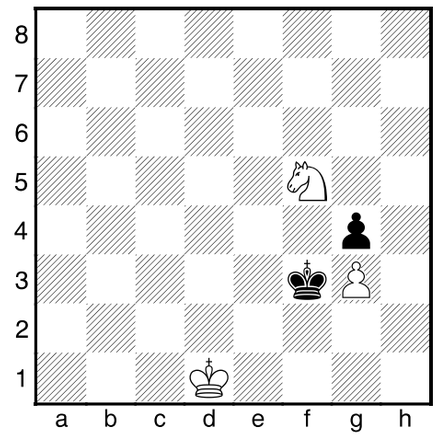
67.♘d8!+- b5
67...b6 68.♘c6+ ♔c4 69.♘xa7 ♔d3 70.♘c6 ♔e3 71.♘e7□ ♔f3 72.♘f5+- the Black ♙ prevents the defending ♔ from attacking both the ♘ and the ♙, so on 72...♔e4 73.♘g7 *(73.♘h4 ♔e3 74.♔c2 ♔f2 75.♘f5+-)* 73...♔f3 74.♘h5+-;

67...♔c5 68.♘xb7+ ♔c6 69.♘d8+ ♔d5+- 70.♔d2 a5 71.♔d3+- the ♘ goes to h5 and the ♔ stops the ♙a5. 71... a4 72.♘b7 (72.♘f7 a3 73.♔c3 ♔e4 74.♘h6 *(74.♘g5+?? ♔e3=)* 74...♔f3 75.♘f5 ♔e4 76.♘h4+-) 72...a3 73.♔c3! *(73.♘a5? a2 74.♘b3 ♔e5 75.♘a1 ♔d5=)* 73...♔e4 74.♘d6+ ♔f3 75.♘f5+-

68.♘c6+!
It is now #35.

68...♔c3 69.♘e5?
Either time pressure, or White hadn't finished the Dvoretsky chapter on ♘v♙ endings either.
☺

69.♘xa7□+- ♔d3 *(69...b4 70.♘c6+- b3 71.♔c1□+-)*
70.♘xb5 ♔e3 71.♘d6 ♔f3 72.♘f5 *Analysis Diagram:*



Black's g4 pawn costs him the game; remove it, and ...♔g4 would draw. 72...♔e4 73.♘g7 *(or 73.♘h4 ♔e3 74.♔e1+-)* 73...♔f3 74.♘h5+-.

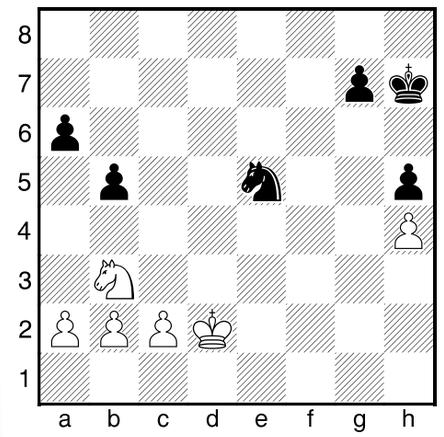
69...b4= 70.♘xg4
Now the Black ♔ can either attack the g♙ or safely sit on the square in front of it to hold the draw.

70...♔d3 71.♘h2 a5 72.g4 ♔e4 73.♔c2 a4 74.g5 ♔f5 75.♘f3 a3 76.♔b3 ♔g6 77.♔a2 ♔f5

½-½

(59)
Preotu, Razvan
Kamsky, Gata
B33
2016 Washington International, D.C. (5), 15.08.2016
Notes: IM Razvan Preotu

32.♔d2



...♘c4+ or ...♘f3+

32...♘c4+?
Kamsky should have gone after the h−pawn: 32...♘f3+ 33.♔e3 ♘xh4 34.♘c5 a5 35.♘e4 ♔h6 36.♘d6 b4 37.c4 bxc3 38.bxc3∓ White may be able to draw because of the counterplay with the c−pawn.

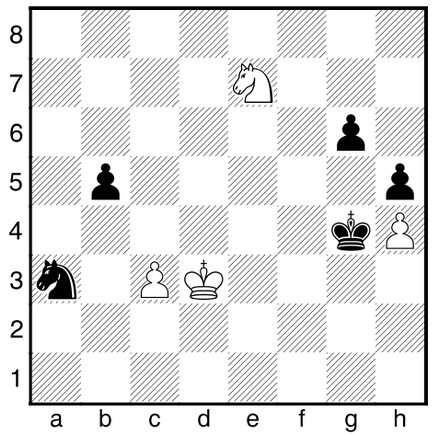
33.♔d3?
33.♔c3 g5 looked extremely dangerous to me, but White is in time to get the king back to stop the pawn: 34.hxg5 ♔g6 35.♘d4 ♔xg5 36.b3 ♘e5 37.♔d2 ♔f4 38.♔e2=.

33...♘xb2+ 34.♔e4 ♘a4 35.a3 ♘c3+ 36.♔d3 ♘b1 37.♘c5 ♘xa3 38.♘xa6 ♔g6-+ 39.♘c7 ♔f5 40.c3 ♔e5
Kamsky was probably confused on how to win the h−pawn without trading it for the g−pawn.

40...♔g4 41.♘e6 g6 42.♘f8 ♔xh4 43.♘xg6+ ♔g5 44.♘e5 ♔f4 45.♘g6+ ♔g4 Black's winning plan is to control the e5-square with ...♘c4 and chase the knight away with ...♔g5.

Sapozhnikov & Upper *Guelph, 2011 Zonal.*

41.♘e8 g6 42.♘c7 ♔f5 43.♘d5 ♔g4 44.♘e7



44... g5?
A strange mistake. Black gives up an important tempo because the king will be on g5, not on g4.

44...♔xh4! 45.♘xg6+ ♔g4-+ with the same winning plan as before: 46.♔d4 ♘c4 47.♔e4 ♔g5 48.♘f4 h4-+ White won't be able to stop the h−pawn and protect the c3-pawn.

45.hxg5 ♔xg5 46.♔e3 ♔g4
46...♘b1 47.♘d5 ♔f5 48.♘f4 h4 49.♘d5 ♔e5 50.♘f4 ♔f5 *(50...♘xc3 51.♘g6+=)* 51.♘d5 ♔g4 52.♔f2=.

47.♔f2
The king has gotten in front of the pawn, so it's an easy draw. Black's knight will always be stuck defending the b5-pawn.

47...♘c4 48.♘c6 ♘d6 49.♔g2 ♘e4 50.c4

Kamsky - Preotu Calgary, 2016

A very important draw! The few points I gained were enough for me to cross 2500, meeting the last requirement I needed to achieve my GM title.

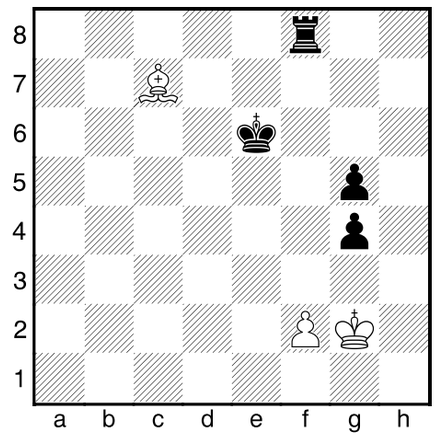
- Razvan Preotu

½-½

(60)
Spraggett, Kevin
Ivanov, Igor

E12
Match Ivanov-Spraggett Montreal (3), 09.1981

67.♗c7 ♖f8



White has been defending an exchange down ending for over 30 moves. Can this be held?

68.♗g3??
Not like this.

68.♔g1 and 68.♔f1 both draw, and are the only moves which do.

68.♔g3?? looks fine but loses because the ♗ has to be able to sit here. 68...♖f7:
69.♗a5 ♖f3+ 70.♔xg4 ♖xf2-+ Black saves the g−pawn with either ...♖f5+ or ...♖g2+.;
69.♗b8 ♖b7-+ traps the ♗ on a nearly open board!

69.♗b6 ♔f5-+ With the ♗ unable to return to g3, Black brings the ♖ to the third rank and ♔ to h4 and plays ...g3 to trade White's blockading pawn to create a passer.

68...♖f4!!-+
White can't take on f4, so now he runs out of safe moves with the ♗ and Black can advance the ♔ and go into a winning pawn ending by taking on f2 or g3.

69.♔f1 ♔d5 70.♔g1 ♔d4 71.♔g2 ♔d3 72.♔f1 ♖f3! 73.♔g2

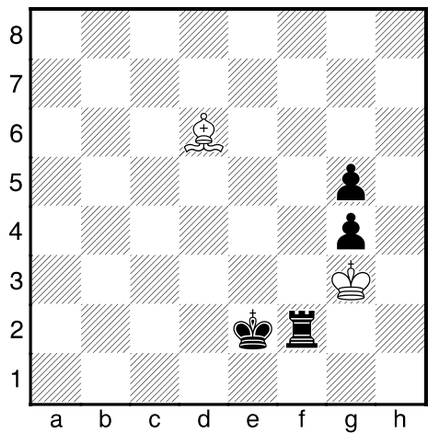
73.♔e1 ♖xg3-+;

73.♗c7 g3 74.♗xg3 ♖xg3 75.fxg3 g4□-+.

73...♔e2 74.♗d6
74.♔g1 ♖xg3+-+;

74.♔h2 ♔f1 *(74...♖xf2+ 75.♗xf2 ♔xf2 76.♔h1 ♔g3-+)* 75.♔h1 ♖xf2 76.♗xf2 ♔xf2-+.

74...♖xf2+ 75.♔g3



This could be a second Critical Position.

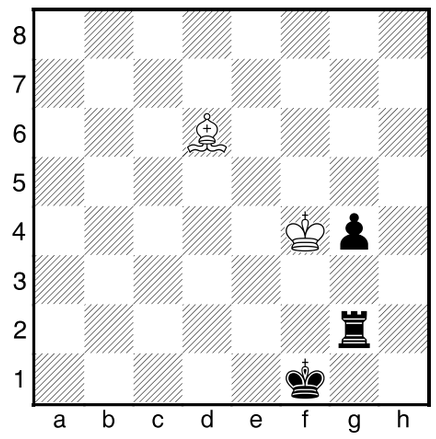
75...♔f1??
Chess is difficult.

The key is for Black to give up one pawn, but save the other with a check from g1.

75...♖f1!-+ 76.♗c5 ♔d3 77.♔xg4 ♔e4-+ and again, the ♖ check on f5 or g1 wins.

75...♖f6-+ 76.♗c7 *(76.♗e7 ♖f1 77.♔xg4 ♖g1+-+)* 76...♖c6 77.♗d8 ♖c1 78.♔xg4 ♖g1+ 79.♔f5 g4-+.

76.♔xg4= ♖g2+ 77.♔f3□ g4+ 78.♔f4□ ♔g1 79.♔g5! ♔f2 80.♔f4□ ♔f1



To advance the pawn, Black needs to get his ♔ to f3 or h3; and one way to do this is with ...♖g3 and ...♔g2. White has to respond to ...♖g3 by attacking it with the ♗ from the b8-g3 diagonal, or from the h4-e1 diagonal; and the only way to get the ♗ to h4 without allowing a skewer is from d8. So...

81.♔g5??
81.♗c7□= ♖c2 (81...♔g1 82.♔f5 *(82.♔g5 ♔f2 83.♔f4=)* 82...♔f2 83.♔f4 ♖g3 84.♗d8 *(84.♗a5 ♔g2 85.♗e1=)* 84...♔g2 85.♗h4=) 82.♗d8□ ♖c4+ 83.♔g3□=;

81.♗e5? ♔g1! 82.♔g5 ♔f2 83.♔f4 ♖g3 84.♗c7 *(84.♗f6 ♖f3+)* 84...♔g2.

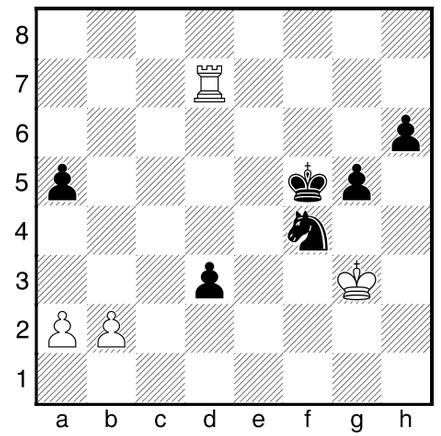
81...♖g1□ 82.♔h4 ♔e2
The ♔ gets to f3, supporting the ♙ and winning White's ♗.

0-1

Sambuev - Noritsyn
Montreal, 2016 Zonal

(61)
Sambuev, Bator
Noritsyn, Nikolay
D36
CAN Zonal playoff blitz Montreal (2), 01.07.2017

43.♔g3



Pretend this is an endgame study and find Black's most elegant win.

43...♔e4
Good enough, but 43...♔e6!! is both pretty and immediately decisive. Leaving the d−file allows

...d2 and promotion, but 44.♖d8 ♔e7!-+ and the ♖ runs out of safe squares on the d−file!

44.♔f2 h5 45.a4 h4 46.b4
White's only try. Black is winning, but it's difficult. And at blitz time control, and after 9 rounds in the Zonal followed by 4 rounds of rapid, it would be nearly superhuman.

The game degenerated into a series of blunders.

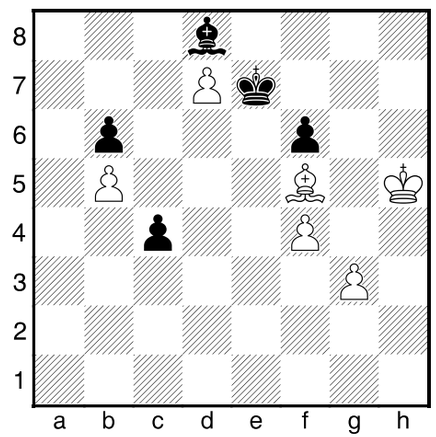
46...axb4?? (46...g4□-+ 47.bxa5 g3+□ 48.♔e1 *(48.♔g1* allows a ♘e2+ controlling the promotion square.*)* 48...h3 49.a6 h2-+.) **47.a5= h3?** (47...b3□=) **48.a6+- h2 49.♖h7?** (49. a7+- ♘d5 50.a8♕ h1♕ 51.♕xd5+ skewers the new ♕.) **49...d2□= 50.a7 d1♖** (Of course, this is not the move Black intended: 50...d1♕=. He couldn't find a spare ♕, and put an upside−down ♖ on the board. The Arbiter stopped the game, explained that an upside−down ♖ is still a ♖, and the game continued...) **51.a8♕+ ♘d5 52.♖xh2 ♖d2+ 53.♔g3 ♖d3+ 54.♔g4 ♔d4 55.♕a7+ ♔c4 56.♕a6+ ♔d4 57.♕a1+ ♘c3 58.♖h8 ♔c4 59.♕b2 ♖d4+ 60.♔xg5 ♖d5+ 61.♔g6 ♖d6+ 62.♔f7 ♖d7+ 63.♔e6 ♖c7 64.♖h4+**

1-0

(62)
Pechenkin, Vladimir
Haessel, Dale

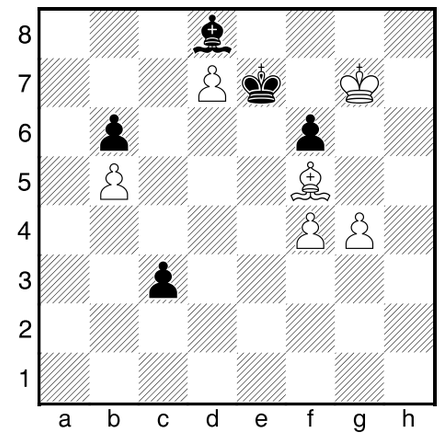
A36
2015 Edmonton Invitational (3.3), 07.11.2015
Notes:
FM Vladimir Pechenkin

69.♔h5 c4



70.g4?
It's hard to refrain from this advance with a minute on the clock, but now Black achieves a draw with a sequence of only (but relatively obvious) moves.

It is only when I went to sleep that the following move dawned on me: 70.♔g6! I rushed back to the computer to confirm that White wins in all the lines with the help of *zugzwang*. The main idea can be illustrated as follows: 70...c3 71.♔h6! ♗c7 *(71...♔f7 72.g4! ♗c7 73.g5!+-)* 72.♔g7 the triangle is completed, Black is in *zugzwang*. 72...♗d8 *(72...♗d6* loses control of the d8-square and after *73.d8♕+ ♔xd8 74.♔xf6* White wins easily*)* 73.g4 Only now! *Analysis Diagram:*



73...♗c7 is insufficient: 74.g5 fxg5 75.fxg5 ♗e5+ 76.♔h7 c2 77.♗xc2 ♔xd7 78.g6 and wins. The most stubborn defence is 73...c2 74.♗xc2 ♔xd7 75.♔f7 and, remarkably, Black is helpless. For example, 75...♔d6 76.♗f5 ♔d5 *(76...♗e7 77.♔e8* and Black has to part with his bishop because of another *zugzwang*. *76...♔c7 77.♔e8* leads to the same result.*)* 77.♔e8 ♗c7 78.g5 fxg5 79.fxg5 ♔e5 80.♗d7 and the g−pawn will cost Black his bishop.

70...♗c7 71.g5 fxg5 72.fxg5 ♗e5 73.♔g6
Unfortunately, 73.g6 runs into 73...♗g7.

73...♗f4
The difference from the line above is that the g−pawn can't move.

74.d8♕+ ♔xd8 75.♔f6 ♔c7 76.g6 ♗h6 77.♔e6 (The remaining moves were played simply because I did not want to offer a draw for the second straight time.) **77...♗g7 78.♗e4 c3 79.♔e7 ♗h8 80.♗f5 ♗d4 81.♗e4**
It can be concluded that the

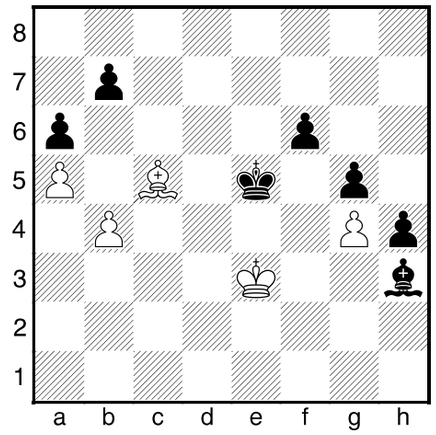
decision to exchange queens wasn't a bad one, as the resulting opposite−colour bishop endgame was a win for White.

½-½

(63)
Gusev, Nikita
Qin, Zi Yi (Joey)

B92
CUCC Toronto (3), 10.01.2015

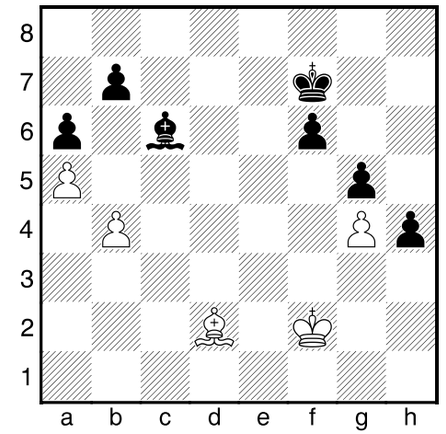
57.♔e3 ♗xh3



58.♗d4+?
Pushes the attacking King back, which is a good thing, but it puts the B on a square where it can't get to the only saving diagonal.

58.♔f3□ f5 59.gxf5 looks terrible, but it's a draw: 59...♗xf5 *(59...♔xf5 60.♗e7=)* 60.♗e7 g4+ 61.♔e3 h3 62.♗h4= e.g. 62...♔d5 63.♗g3 ♔c4 64.♗d6 h2 65.♗xh2 ♔xb4 66.♗c7 b5 67.axb6□=.

58...♔e6 59.♔f3 ♗f1? (59... f5□-+) **60.♗e3= ♗b5 61.♗d2 ♗c6+ 62.♔f2 ♔f7**



63.♗c3?
63.♗e3□ White draws by attacking the passed pawns from behind with the Bishop, where it also cuts off the attacking King. 63...♔g6 64.♗b6 f5 65.gxf5+ ♔xf5 66.♗d8 ♔g4 67.♗e7 ♔h5 68.♗d8 g4 69.♔e3□ Black is up two connected passed pawns, but it is still a draw: the queenside pawns are irrelevant, and Black can't get past the dark−square blockade. 69...g3 70.♔f4□ g2 71.♗b6 h3 72.♗g1 or ♔g3.

63...♔g6 64.♗d4 f5 65.gxf5+ ♔xf5 66.♔g1 g4 67.♔h2 ♔g5
67...g3+ 68.♔h3 ♔g5-+.

68.♗e3+ ♔h5 69.♗c5 g3+ 70.♔h3 ♗d7+ 71.♔g2 ♔g4 72.♗d6 h3+

0-1

Joey Qin - M.Voloaca

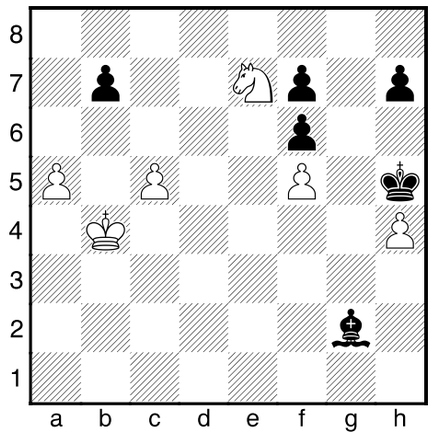
Toronto, 2015 CUCC

Nikita Gusev

(64)
Ivanov, Igor
Sarwer, Jeff
B15
Saint John op-2 Saint John, 1988

The following game was played when Jeff was 10, and his opponent, IM Igor Ivanov, was the most successful tournament player in North America.

38.a5 ♔h5



39.c6□
39.♔b5? ♔xh4 40.♔b6 ♔g4! 41.c6 ♗xc6 *(41...bxc6 42.a6□ c5 43.♘c6□+-)* 42.♘xc6 h5□ 43.♔xb7 *(43.♘d4? h4 44.♔xb7 h3-+)* 43...h4 44.a6 h3 45.a7 h2 46.a8♕ h1♕ and ♘e5+ would win for White, if the N wasn't pinned. Instead, Black wins the f5−pawn and draws.

39...bxc6
39...♗xc6? loses trivially: 40.♘xc6 bxc6 41.a6+-.

40.a6
40.♔c5? ♗f1□ Black stops the a−pawn and now White has to play carefully to avoid losing: 41.♘c8□= ♔xh4 42.♘d6□ *(42.♘b6? ♗b5∓* White might have some miracle save, but I doubt it.*)* 42...♗a6□ *(42...♔g4? 43.♘c4+-)* 43.♔b6□ *(43.♔xc6 ♗e2!!-+* Black now has two diagonals to stop the a−pawn, and it takes too many moves for the N to block one then the other.*)* 43...♗f1 44.♔c5 *(44.♔xc6? h5-+)* 44...♗a6=.

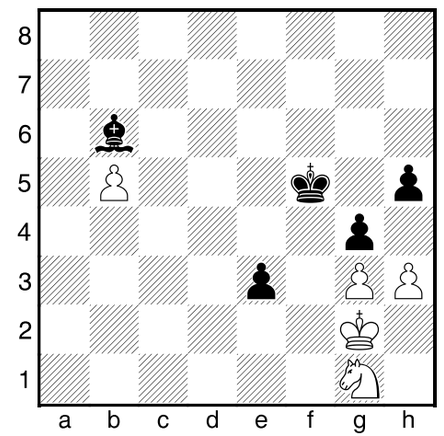
40...♔xh4
40...c5+ 41.♔xc5 ♗a8 *(41...♔xh4 42.♘d5+-* cuts off the B.*)* 42.♘d5 ♔xh4 43.♘c7 and Black loses control over a8, since *(*Passed pawns must be pushed? *43.a7??* Not this one! White gives up control of b7 and Black draws.*)* 43...♗e4 44.♘d5+- cuts off the B.

41.♔c5! ♔g4 42.a7 h5 43.a8♕ h4 44.♕b8 h3 45.♔d4

1-0

(65)
Erenburg, Sergey
Preotu, Razvan
B80
2016 World Open Philadelphia (8), 04.07.2016
Notes: IM Razvan Preotu

54.h3 g4



55.♘e2
editor − As far as I can tell, this is the losing move. After ***55.hxg4+*** I can't find a way for Black to win: 55...♔xg4 and Black can win the g3-pawn, but with the wrong−corner ♗ and ♙ combo and White's advanced b−pawn it's a draw; e.g. 56.♘e2 ♗c7 57.♘g1 *(57.♔f1 ♔f3 58.♘d4+* also draws, as the ♘ can give itself up for the e−pawn.*)* 57...♗xg3 58.b6□= h4 59.b7 h3+ 60.♘xh3 e2 61.♘f2+= or 61.b8♕=;

55...hxg4 56.♔f1 ♔e4 this is as dominating a position as Black can get, but White has an improbable fortress: 57.♔e2 *(57.♔e1* also draws.*)* 57...♗c7 58.♔d1□ ♗xg3 59.b6 ♔d3 *(59...♗f2?? 60.♘e2+-)* 60.b7 and White can oscillate the ♘ between e2 and g1 Black can't make any progress since his ♗ is tied to b8.

55...♔e4 56.♘f4 ♗a7 57.hxg4 hxg4
White is in *zugzwang* and must allow the Black king to go through.

58.♘e2 ♔d3 59.♘f4+ ♔d2 60.♔f1 ♗b8 61.♘e2 ♗c7
Another *zugzwang*, White loses the g3-pawn and the game.

62.♘d4 ♗xg3 63.b6 ♗b8 64.b7 g3 65.♘f3+ ♔d1 66.♘d4 ♗c7 67.♘b5 e2+ 68.♔g2 e1♕

A very important win, as this allowed me to play for a GM norm in the final round!

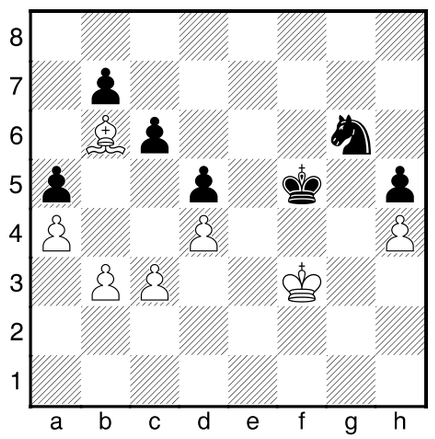
- Razvan Preotu

0-1

(66)
Smilovici, Emil
Shirov, Alexei

C68

Shirov Simul Ottawa, 11.02.2010

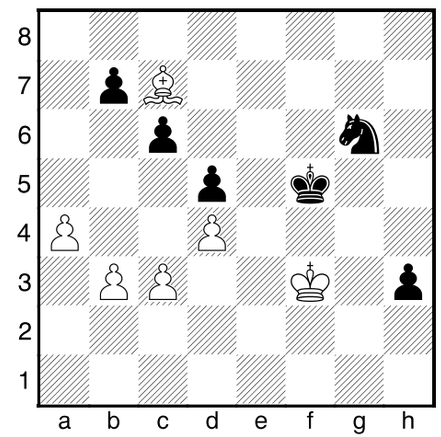


Rank the following: 41.♔g3, 41.♗d8, 41. ♗xa5.

41.♔g3?

41.♗d8! ♔e6 42.♔g3 ♔f5 43.♔f3= if Black stops combining the attack on ♙h4 with the threat to invade on e4 then his ♙a5 is lost;

41.♗xa5?! leaves only Black with winning chances. 41...♘xh4+ 42.♔g3 ♘g6 43.♔f3 *(43.♗d8? ♔e4-+)* 43...h4 44.♗d8 h3 45.♗c7 *Analysis Diagram:*



I think this position is drawn, but it is easy for White to go wrong. 45...♘f8 46.♔e3 ♘e6 47.♗b8 ♘g5 48.a5! A useful move, giving White two ways to try to create a passed pawn: c4xd5 and b4-b5-a6, and c4-c5, b4-b5 followed by c5-c6. 48...♔g4 *(48...♘e4 49.c4□)* 49.c4□ *(49.♗h2 ♘f3-+)* 49...♘e4 (49...♘f3 50.cxd5 cxd5 51.b4□ ♘h4□= *(51...h2?? 52.♗xh2 ♘xh2 53.b5+-)* 52.b5 ♘f5+ 53.♔d3 ♘g3 54.♗xg3 ♔xg3 55.a6=) 50.♗h2□ *(50.cxd5?? cxd5 51.♗h2 ♘g3 52.♔f2 ♘f5 53.♗e5 ♘e7 54.b4 ♘c6-+; 50.♗c7?? ♘g3-+)* 50...♘g3 51.♔f2 ♘f5 52.♗e5 h2 53.♗xh2 ♘xd4 54.cxd5 cxd5 55.b4 ♘c6 56.♗d6=.

41...♔e4!-+

Black's ♔ invades and White loses a Queenside pawn and any chance to create a passer, after which his ♘ outperforms the bad ♗.

42.♗xa5 ♔d3 43.♗b4 ♔c2!-+

Black's ♘g6+♙h5+♙d5 keep the White ♔ out of the game, and they're all on light squares so they can't be kicked by the ♗.

44.a5 ♔xb3 45.♔h3 ♔c4 46.♔g3 ♔d3 47.♔h3 ♘f4+ 48.♔g3 ♔e3 49.♔h2 ♔f3 50.♗e7 ♔g4-+

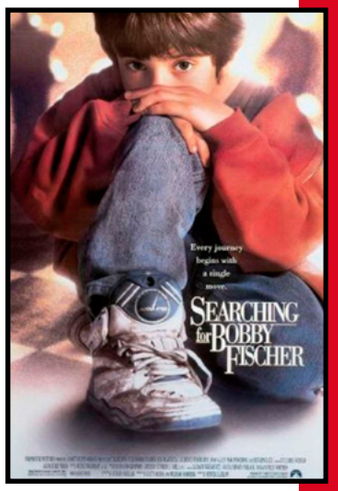
Black wins all the ♙s.

0-1

(67)
Sarwer, Jeff
Waitzkin, Josh

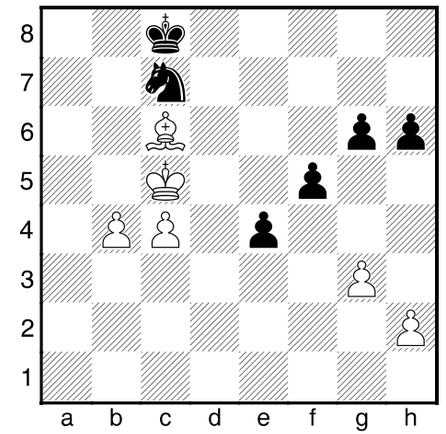
E76

Charlotte USA Primary-ch Charlotte, 1986



This was the game that was the "inspiration" for the climactic game in the film *Searching for Bobby Fischer*.

38...e4



Fame and Movie Stardom are at stake...

39.b5??
"Once I got the winning endgame I simply lost my focus and didn't take the game seriously enough."

− Jeff Sarwer,
2010 USCF interview.

White had two ways to win: 39.♔d6+- preventing the ♘ from redeploying, 39...♘e8+!? 40.♗xe8 e3 41.c5 e2 42.c6 e1♕ 43.♗d7++-;

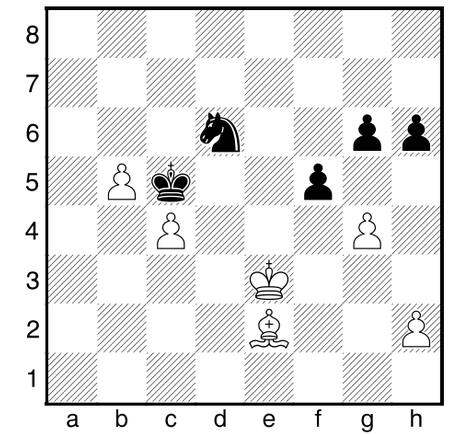
39.♔d4+- ♘e6+ 40.♔c3! *(40.♔e3? ♔d8 41.b5 ♘c5 42.b6 g5 43.♔d4 ♘b3+ 44.♔e5 ♔c8 45.♔xf5 e3 46.♗f3 ♘d4+ 47.♔e4 e2=)* 40...♔d8 *(40...♔c7 41.♗e8 g5 42.♗g6+-)* 41.c5 ♔e7 42.♔c4+-.

39...e3?
39...♘e6+□ 40.♔b4□ *(40.♔d6?? ♘d4-+)* 40...♘d4 41.♗e8 e3 42.♔c3 ♔d8 *(42...e2 43.♔d2±)* 43.♗xg6 ♘f3□ 44.♔d3□ ♘e5+ 45.♔xe3 ♘xg6=.

Now White gets a second chance...

Sarwer & Waitzkin *1986*

40.♗f3!+- ♘e6+ 41.♔d5 ♘g5 42.♗e2 ♔c7 43.♔e5 (⌓43.c5) **43...♘e4 44.♔d4 ♔d6 45.♔xe3 ♔c5 46.g4! ♘d6**



47.♔f4??
The final mistake. 47.gxf5+- ♘xf5+ 48.♔e4 ♘d4 49.♗d3 g5 50.b6 ♘c6 51.b7+-.

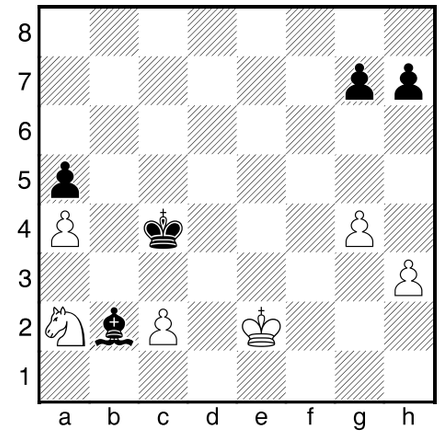
47...g5+□= 48.♔e5 fxg4 49.♔f6 g3! 50.hxg3 ♘e4+□ 51.♔g6 ♘xg3 52.♗d3 ♘h1! 53.♔xh6 g4 54.♔g5 g3 55.♗e4 ♘f2 56.♗d5 ♘d1 57.♔f4 ♘c3 58.♗c6 ♘e2+ (58...♘xb5=) **59.♔f3 ♘d4+ 60.♔xg3 ♘xc6 61.bxc6 ♔xc6 62.♔f3 ♔c5 63.♔e3 ♔xc4**

½-½

(68)
Samsonkin, Artiom
Sambuev, Bator

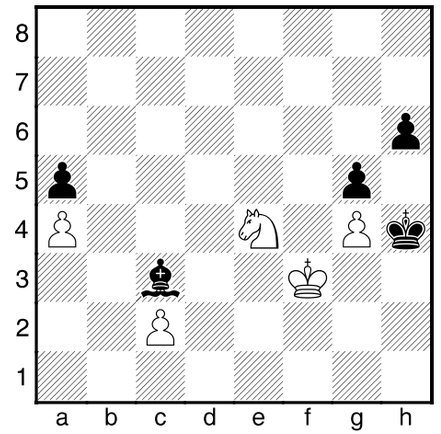
C16
National Capital Open (5), 06.12.2009

56.♘a2



The ♘a2 looks bad, but White's pieces defend all the squares the Black ♔ has to cross to attack the White ♙'s, and there's no way to make the White ♔ give way since the only way to take away its defensive squares (e2, f2, f3) either allows the ♘a2 to move, or frees the ♙c2. White has a dynamic fortress.

56...♔d4 57.♔f3 g5 58.♔f2 ♔e4 59.♔e2 h6 60.♔d2 ♔f3 61.♘c1 ♔g2 62.♘d3 ♗f6 63.♔e3 ♔xh3 64.♔f3 (Nice! White doesn't need the ♙h3 to blockade the light squares.) **64...♗c3 65.♘f2+ ♔h4 66.♘e4**



Black's been pressing all game, and has finally restored material equality and now has a ♗vs♘ with ♙'s on opposite sides. So obviously Black has all the winning chances... right...?

66...♗e5□=
Wrong!
This is the *only* move that stops the maneuver ♘g3/e6-♘f5 winning the ♙h6 and the game. I think it's this vigilance — on move 66 of the last round of

a tough tournament — that separates the titled players from the 2300+ also−rans.

For example: 66...♗g7 67.♘g3 ♗f8 68.♘f5+ ♔h3 69.c4⊙ ♔h2 *(69...h5 70.gxh5 g4+ 71.♔e4!+- g3 72.♘xg3!+-* Black's ♗ can't stop both ♙s*)* 70.♘d4 h5 A desperate try. White wins if he avoids giving Black a free tempo with check. *(70...♗g7 71.♘e6+-* the ♘e6 controls all the dark squares the ♙ needs to cross on the c−file.*)* 71.♘e6 (71.gxh5 ♔h3 72.♘f5 g4+ 73.♔e4!+- *(73.♔f4 ♗d6+ 74.♘xd6 g3 75.h6+-)*) 71...♔h3 72.♘xf8 hxg4+ 73.♔e3+- *(73.♔f2?? ♔h2=).*

67.c4 h5□
67...♗f4? 68.♘f6+- ♗e5 69.♘h5 ♔h3 70.c5 ♔h4 71.c6 ♔h3 72.♘g7+- with the ♗ tied to defending c7 the ♘ can hop out to immediately support the c−pawn or win the h−pawn first.

68.♘f2
68.c5 gives White losing chances. 68...hxg4+ 69.♔g2 ♔h5 70.c6 ♔g6 71.♘c5 ♔f7 72.♘b3 *(72.♘a6?? ♔e6-+)* 72...♗c7 73.♘d4 ♔e7 74.♘b5 ♔d8 75.♔f2=.

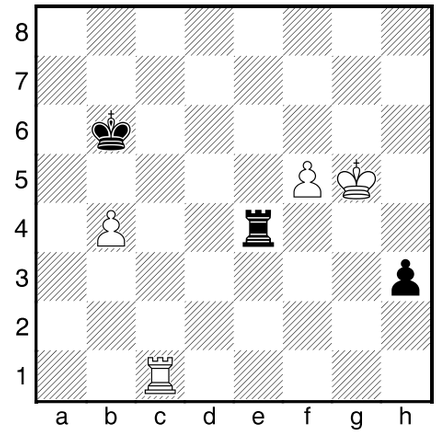
68...hxg4+ 69.♘xg4 ♗d4 70.♘h6 ♔h5 71.♘g4 ♗b6 72.♘e5 ♗c5 73.♘g4 ♗d4 74.♘h2
If Black's ♔ attacks the ♕−side ♙'s, White can either defend them with ♔b3 or trade minors to win the ♙g5 then prevent Black's a−file ♙ from promoting by using a ♔vs♔ bodycheck to trap the Black ♔ on the a−file.

With this draw, Samsonkin secured unshared first place.

½-½

(69)
Thavandiran, Shiyam
Swapnil, S. Dhopade
B19
2016 Commonwealth Chess Championship (9), 06.08.2016
Notes:
IM Shiyam Thavandiran

52...h3!



"Passed pawns must be pushed", or "Do not hurry"?

53.f6??
I showed absolutely no concern about Black's counterplay and this cost me a =2nd finish. 53.♖h1! or 53.♖c2 and White still has winning chances.

53...♖e2□
Now Black gets his pawn to the second rank, after which the game must end in a draw.

54.f7 ♖f2 55.♔g6 h2 56.♖h1 ♖g2+□
I missed that I never get time to take on h2 because Black keeps checking, or White has to impede the f−pawn to hide!

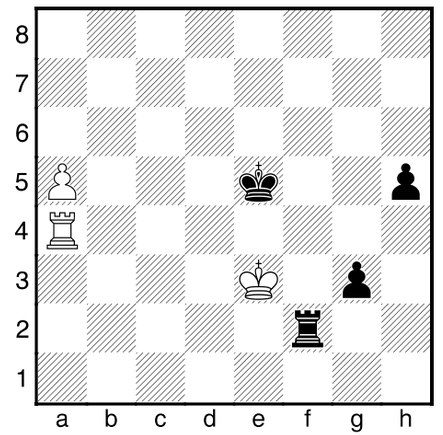
57.♔h7 ♖f2 58.♔g8 ♖g2+ 59.♔f8 ♔b5 60.♖e1 ♖g1
60...♖e2 61.♖xe2 h1♕=.

61.♖e5+ ♔b6 62.♖h5 h1♕ 63.♖xh1 ♖xh1 64.♔g8 ♖g1+ 65.♔h8 ♖f1 66.♔g8 ♔b5 67.f8♕ ♖xf8+ 68.♔xf8 ♔xb4

½-½

(70)
Shankland, Samuel
Hambleton, Aman
C07
Millionaire Chess Open Atlantic City (9), 10.10.2016
Notes: IM Aman Hambleton

51.♔e3



Even though 47 ...♖a3 may have been more simple, I did calculate this variation very thoroughly, and saw it right until the end. Unfortunately, I chose another move at the very last moment that I considered to be winning as well, and got tricked.

51...♖f8??
51...♖f1! 52.♖a2 h4 53.a6 h3 54.a7 g2 55.a8♕ g1♕+ queening with check and leading to mate in a few moves.

editor − the unnatural 51...♖f5! prevents the saving maneuver White uses in the game, and is the only other move that wins.

52.a6
52.♖h4 this move scared me as I was debating between ...♖f8 and ...♖f1. Although I knew ...♖f1 was winning, I thought that this move offered me the chance to win the brilliancy prize as well as my game! A case of being overly and unnecessarily fancy — a real shame.
52...g2 53.♖xh5+ ♔f6! 54.♔f2 ♔g6+-+.

52...g2 53.♖a5+□
The in−between move that somehow slipped my calculation because the pawn used to be on the a5 square. Very sloppy in the last moment of this game.

53...♔d6
We agreed to a draw because White simply plays ♖g5 and collects my g−pawn. Instead, ...♔f6 was no better because of ♔f2.

I was very proud of my opening preparation, especially against a player as strong as Shankland — but to not finish off the game properly and collect the full point was definitely a sour taste to end the tournament.

− IM Aman Hambleton

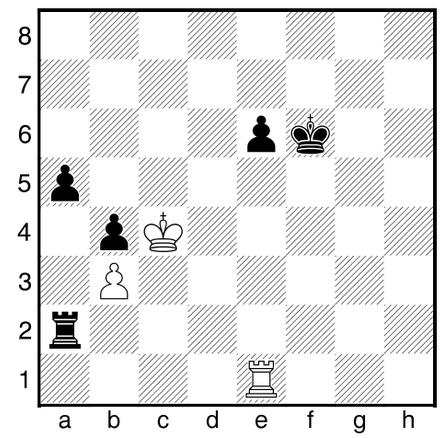
½-½

Aman Hambleton Atlantic City, 2016

(71)
Demchenko, Svitlana
Chiku−Ratte, Olivier−Kenta

B75
RA December Open Ottawa (2), 08.12.2018

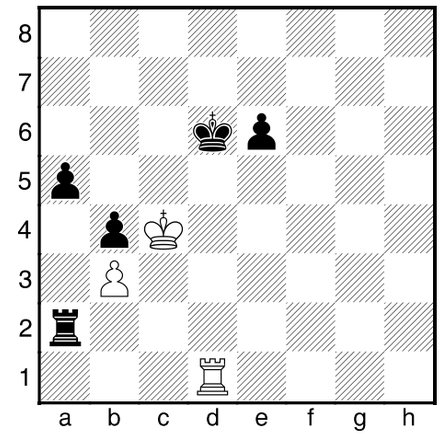
57.♖e1



Passed pawns must be pushed, or Do not hurry?

57...♔f5?
57...e5□ with the pawn on the 5th White's checking distance is reduced enough that Black can block with the ♖, e.g.
58.♖f1+ *(58.♔d5 ♖d2+-+)*
58...♔e6 59.♖e1 ♔f5 60.♖f1+ ♔e4 61.♖e1+ ♔f4 62.♖f1+ ♔e3 63.♖e1+ ♖e2 64.♖xe2+ ♔xe2 65.♔d5 a4-+.

58.♖f1+□ ♔e5 59.♖e1+ ♔d6 60.♖d1+



60...♔c6
60...♔e7 61.♖h1! (61.♖e1 also draws by preventing the e−pawn from advancing.)

a) 61...e5 62.♖h6= ♖c2+ 63.♔b5 ♖c3 64.♔xa5 ♖xb3 65.♔a4 ♖b1 66.♔b5! Simplest: Black's

♔ is cut off, and the ♖ can't support both pawns, e.g. 66...e4 67.♖h4 ♖e1 *(67...e3 68.♖e4+=)* 68.♔xb4=;

b) 61...a4 62.♔xb4 a3 63.♔a4 e5 64.♖h6 ♖a1 65.b4 a2 66.♔a3=;

c) 61...♔f6 62.♖f1+□=.

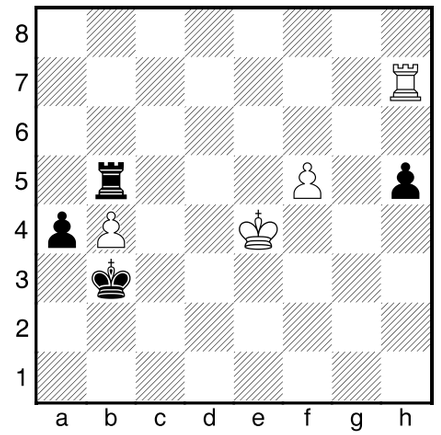
61.♖e1??
61.♖d2□= ♖a1 *(61...♖xd2* is stalemate.*)* 62.♖d1! ♖a3 63.♖d8 Black's rook escapes only by giving up the b4 pawn, and the only other attempt to make progress is by pushing the e−pawn... which is lost without the support of the ♔ or ♖: 63...e5 64.♖d1! simplest 64...e4 65.♖e1=.

61...♖c2+!-+ 62.♔d4 ♔d6 63.♖a1 ♖c5 64.♔e4 ♔c6 65.♔d4 ♔b6 66.♖e1 e5+ 67.♔e4 ♖c3 68.♖b1 a4 69.bxa4 ♔a5 70.♔xe5 ♖d3 71.♔e4 ♖d8 72.♖a1 b3 73.♔e3 ♔b4 74.♖b1 ♔a3 75.♖a1+ ♔b2 76.♖f1 ♔a2 77.a5 b2 78.♖f2 ♔a1

0-1

Olivier-Kenta Chiku-Ratte vs Zach Dukic *Ottawa, 2018*

(72)
Hambleton, Aman
Van Foreest, Jorden
E86
Reykjavik Open (8), 25.04.2017
Notes: IM Aman Hambleton



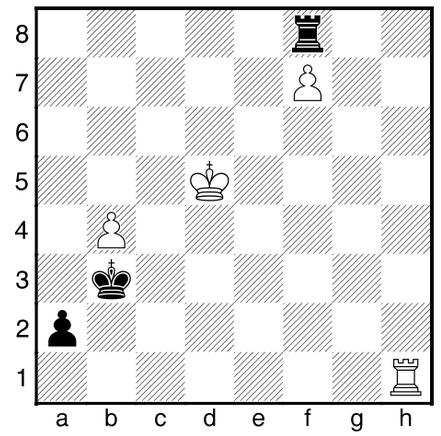
48...h4?
48...♖xb4+□ wins the game:

49.♔d5 h4 50.f6 a3 51.f7 ♖f4 access to the f4-square is the major difference between this variation and what happened in the game. 52.♔e5 ♖f2 53.♔e4 a2 54.f8♕ ♖xf8 55.♖b7+ ♔c2 56.♖a7 ♔b2 57.♖b7+ ♔a1 wins for Black.

49.♔e5 h4 50.f6 a3 51.f7 a2 52.f8♕ a1♕+ the check ensures that Black can deliver a checkmate.

49.f6□=
Now the game is drawn.

49...a3 50.f7 ♖b8 51.♖xh4 a2 52.♖h1 ♖f8 53.♔d5!



The move my opponent missed, reminded us of a famous endgame study where White's King starts on h8 and manages to assist his passed pawn on c6 while catching Black's passed pawn on h5!

53...♖xf7 54.b5 ♖h7 55.♖a1 ♖h5+ 56.♔c6 ♔b2 57.♖xa2+ ♔xa2 58.b6 ♖h6+ 59.♔c7 ♖xb6 60.♔xb6

This miraculous draw was the final notch I needed for the GM norm... Jorden went on to win his final two rounds in convincing fashion and came 2nd place in the Reykjavik Open while I went on to score 7/10 after drawing my final two rounds and securing my 10-round GM norm!

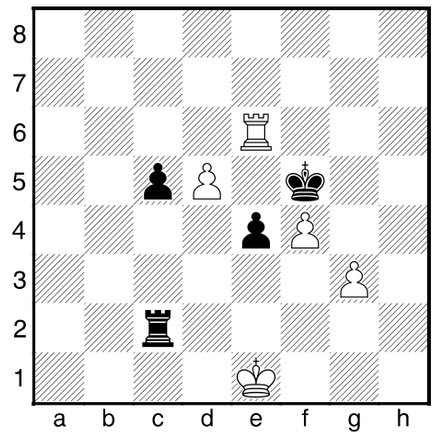
- Aman Hambleton

½-½

(73)
Upper, John
Dukic, Zachary

E92
RACC Ch Ottawa (6), 22.02.2018

60.♖e6



60...♖g2 or 60...♖c4?

60...♖c4??

60...♖g2= 61.♖e5+ ♔g4 *(61...♔f6 62.♖g5 c4=)* 62.♖xe4 ♖xg3 63.♖c4 ♖d3 64.♖xc5 ♔xf4 65.♔e2 ♖d4=.

61.♔e2??

61.♖e5+□+- transposes to the game.

61...♖c2+! 62.♔d1 ♖c4??

62...♖g2=.

63.♖e5+!+- ♔g4 64.♔e2

64.♖g5+? ♔f3 65.♖e5□=.

64...♖c2+

64...♔xg3 65.♔e3□+- ♖d4 66.♖g5+ *(66.♖xe4?? ♖xd5=; 66.f5?! ♖d3+ 67.♔xe4 ♖d4+ 68.♔e3 ♖d1 69.♔e2□ ♔f4 70.f6 ♔xe5 71.f7 ♖d4 72.f8♕ ♔xd5+-* winning, but difficult.*)* 66...♔h4 67.♖g2 ♖xd5 68.♔xe4+- Black's ♔ is cut off and doomed.

65.♔e3 ♖c3+ 66.♔xe4

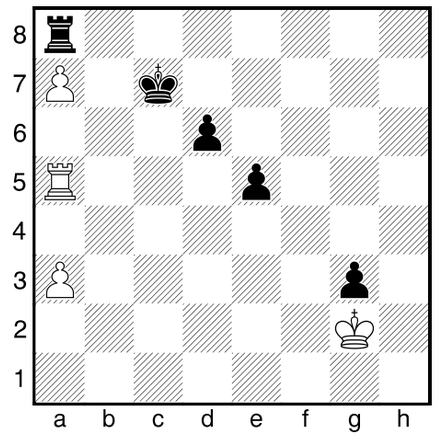
66.♔xe4 ♖c4+ *(66...♔xg3 67.♖g5+ ♔f2 68.d6+-)* 67.♔e3 ♖c3+ 68.♔e2 ♖c4 *(68...♔xg3 69.♖e3++-)* 69.♖g5+ ♔h3 70.f5+-

1-0

(74)
Motylev, Alexander
Hambleton, Aman

B49
London FIDE Open (6), 06.12.2017

Notes: IM Aman Hambleton



In a case of very comical geometry, my King cannot leave the d−pawn and my Rook cannot leave the a−pawn simultaneously. I was frustrated to find that this was not as easily winning as I had imagined.

54...♔b6 55.♖d5 ♔c6 56.♖a5 ♔b7 57.♖d5 ♖d8 58.♖a5

58.♔xg3 ♔xa7 59.♔f2 *(editor − 59.♖b5□=* Lomonosov*)* 59...♔b6-+ is just winning.

58...♖g8 59.♖d5 ♖g6 60.♖a5 ♔a8 61.♖a4 ♖g7 62.♖a6 ♖g6 63.♖a4 ♖g7

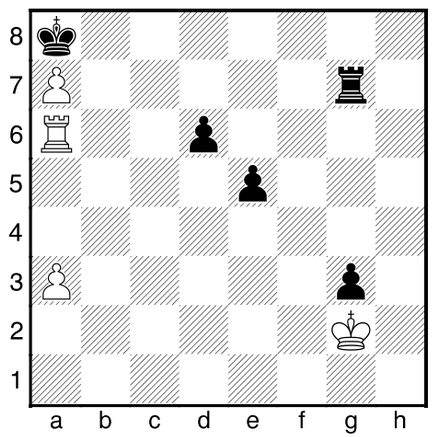
I had low time here and assumed that pushing my central pawns would result in a drawn position where they can't advance any further. I decided to simplify the position here because I didn't see how to win, but, in hindsight, not playing ...d5 here was ridiculous!

63...d5! 64.♖a5 ♖d6 65.♔xg3 e4 66.♔f2 *(66.♔f4?? d4 67.♔xe4 d3-+)* 66...d4 67.♖e5 e3+ 68.♔e1 ♔xa7-+ should eventually be winning. Black cannot advance

his passed pawns any further, but White's King can never move to e2 in fear of ...d3+.

A big missed opportunity.

64.♖a6



64...♖xa7?
64...d5□ 65.♖d6 d4 66.♖d5 ♔xa7 67.♖xe5 ♔b6 68.♖d5 ♖g4□ 69.a4 *(69.♔f3 g2-+)* 69...♔c6 70.♖d8 ♔c5-+ is also completely winning. It's painful to analyze this game afterwards and discover this many obvious wins on the board.

65.♖xd6 ♖xa3 66.♖e6 ♖e3
Holding the pawns momentarily, but we both knew that the game would be drawn within a few moves. I didn't play ...♖xa7 as a winning attempt, more so as a draw offer because I didn't see how to make progress.

67.♖e7 ♔b8 68.♖g7 e4 69.♖xg3 ♖xg3+ 70.♔xg3 e3 71.♔f3 e2 72.♔xe2
My opponent naturally pointed out the many chances I had to win this game in the endgame, which was tough to hear after such a long fight.

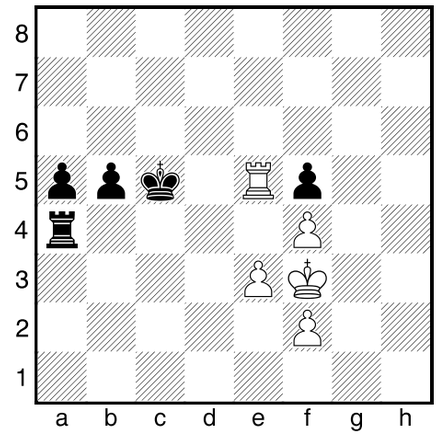
− Aman Hambleton

½-½

(75) Vidmar, Milan Sr – Yanofsky, Daniel

E17
Staunton Memorial Groningen (6), 20.08.1946

43.♖e5+



43...♔c4??
43...♔c6 44.♖xf5 *(44.♔e2 ♖c4-+; 44.♖e6+ ♔c7!−+)* 44...b4 45.♔e2 b3 46.♔d2 ♖c4□-+.

44.♖xf5??
44.e4!! only move to draw. Creates a passed pawn and activates the rook on the e−file:

44...fxe4+ 45.♖xe4+ ♔c3 46.♖e5 *(46.f5 ♖xe4 47.♔xe4 b4=)* 46...b4 47.♖e3+ ♔c4! *(47...♔c2? 48.f5 b3 49.f6 b2 50.♖e2+ ♔c3 51.♖xb2+-)* 48.♖e4+=;

44...♖a3+ 45.♔e2 ♖a2+ 46.♔e3 *(46.♔e1? b4-+)* 46...b4 47.exf5□ b3 48.♖e8□ *(48.♖e7 b2 49.♖b7 ♖a3+ 50.♔d2 ♖b3-+)* 48...b2 49.♖c8+□ ♔b3 50.♖b8+ ♔c2 51.f6 ♖a3+□ 52.♔e2□ ♖b3 53.♖c8+ *(53.♖xb3 ♔xb3 54.f7=)* 53...♔b1 54.f7=.

44...b4-+ 45.♖h5 b3 46.♖h1 b2 47.♖b1 ♖b4 48.f5 a4 49.f6 a3 50.f7 ♖b8

0-1

Euwe - Yanofsky

Groningen, 1946

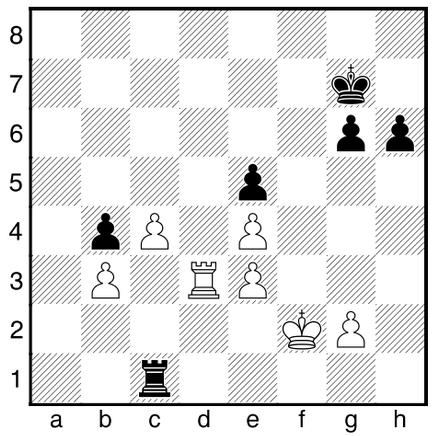
(76)
Zhou, Qiyu
Matras−Clement, Agnieszka

C92

CWCC Zonal 2016 Ottawa (4), 24.09.2016

Notes: WIM Qiyu Zhou

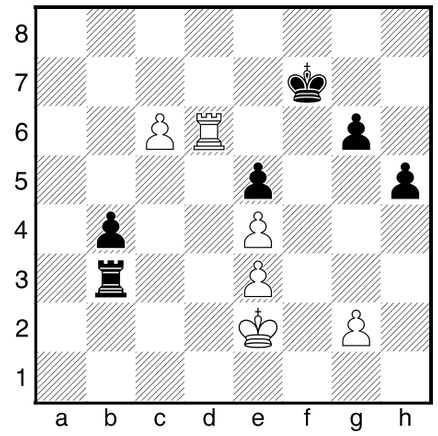
49.b3



49...♔f6??

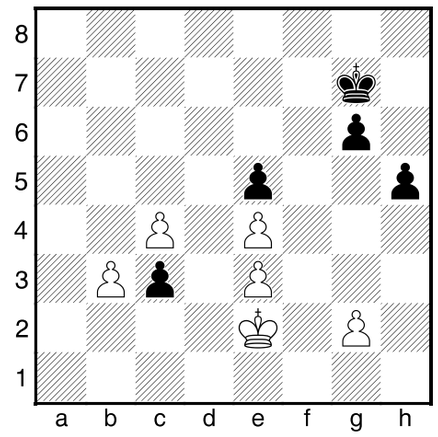
The move I considered during the game was 49...♖b1 after which it is most likely drawn, because there is no way I can improve the position of my king, or push my pawns. 50.c5 ♔f6 51.c6 ♖c1 52.♖d6+ ♔f7 53.♔e2 h5 54.♔d2 ♖c3 55.♔e2 ♖xb3=

Analysis Diagram:



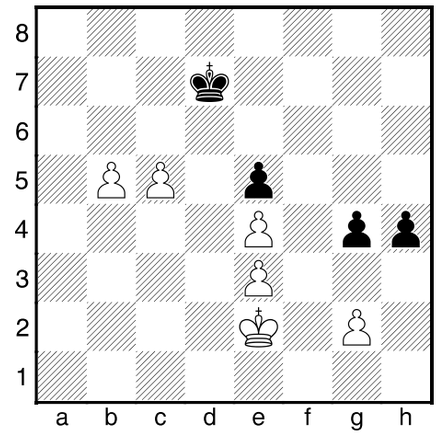
56.c7 ♖c3 57.♖b6 ♖xc7 58.♖xb4; 56.♖d7+ ♔e6= (56...♔e8 57.♖d5 ♖c3 58.♖xe5+ ♔d8 59.♖b5 (59.♖e6? ♖c2+ 60.♔d3 *(60.♔f3 b3-+)* 60...♖xg2-+) 59...♖xc6 60.♖xb4 ♔e7=) 57.♖g7 ♔f6 58.♖b7 ♖c3 59.♖xb4 ♖xc6=;

Interesting was ***49...♖c3*** pointed out by my opponent during post−mortem. 50.♖xc3 bxc3 51.♔e2 h5 *Analysis Diagram:*



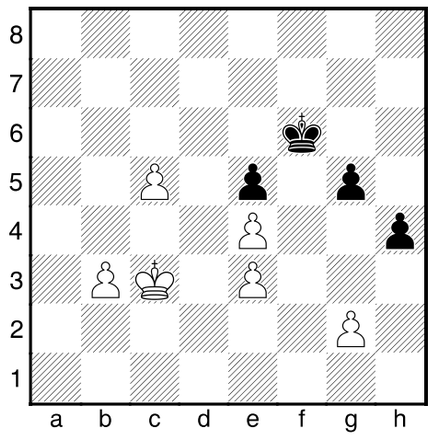
At first glance I thought this was easily winning for White, but in fact it is just a draw, because Black can create her own passed pawn on the h−file if White doesn't watch out. [*editor* − but see below!]

52.♔d3 g5! 53.♔xc3 h4! 54.c5 *(54.♔d2 g4 55.♔e2 ♔f6* is a positional draw, since neither side can safely advance their pawns or attack their opponent's pawns. *56.c5 ♔e6 57.b4 ♔d7 58.b5 ♔c7=)* 54...♔f7 *(54...g4?? 55.c6 h3 56.gxh3 gxh3 57.c7 h2 58.c8♕+-)* 55.♔d3 *(55.b4?? g4-+)* 55...g4 56.♔e2 ♔e6 57.b4 ♔d7 58.b5



This is the same postional draw as other lines: 58...♔c7 59.♔f1 ♔b7 60.♔e1 ♔c7= and neither side can make progress.

52.c5 ♔f6 53.♔d3 h4 54.♔xc3 g5

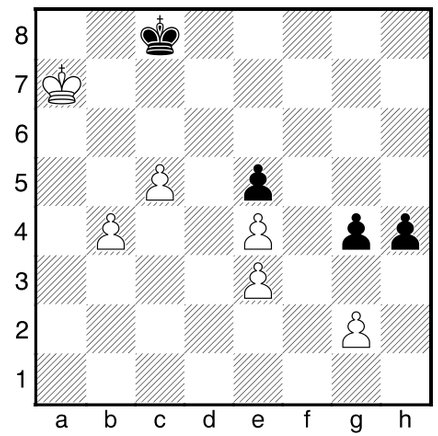


editor − 55.♔d3 g4 56.♔e2 ♔e7 57.b4 ♔d7 58.b5 ♔c7= is the same postional draw as in the previous diagram.

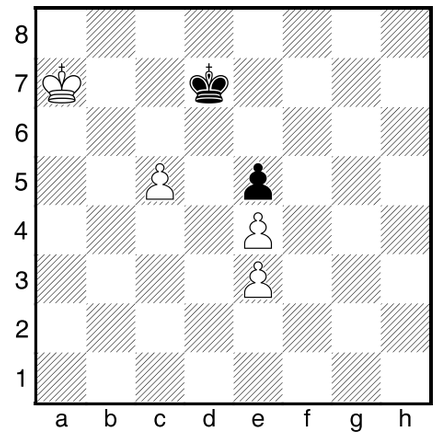
Instead, 55.♔b4!! wins for White:

55...g4 56.♔a5! *(56.♔b5* allows a saving ♕ check after the promotions.*)* 56...h3 57.gxh3 gxh3 58.c6 h2 59.c7 h1♕ 60.c8♕ ♕xe4 61.♕c5!+- is a tablebase #49.

55...♔e7 56.♔b5 ♔d8 57.♔b6 ♔c8 58.b4 g4 59.♔a7

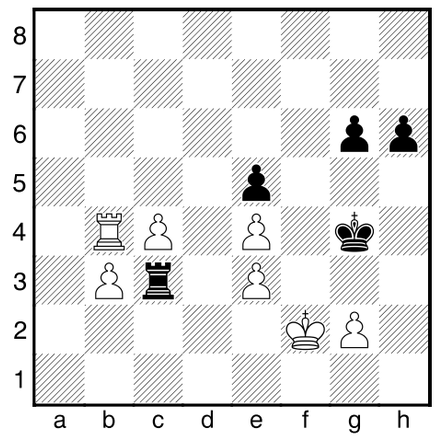


will be a winning ♕ v ♕ ending. 59...h3 60.gxh3 gxh3 61.b5 h2 62.b6 h1♕ 63.b7+ ♔d7 64.b8♕ ♕a1+ 65.♔b7 ♕b1+ 66.♔a8 ♕a2+ *(66...♕xe4+ 67.♕b7++-)* 67.♕a7+ ♕xa7+ 68.♔xa7



68...♔c7 69.c6 ♔xc6 70.♔a6+- White has the opposition and wins because her doubled e3-pawn prevents the black ♔ from approaching and gives her the spare move she needs to avoid stalemate.

50.♖d6+ ♔g5 51.♖b6 ♖c3 52.♖xb4 ♔g4



53.♔e2!

editor − 53.♖b6? ♖c2+ 54.♔e1 g5! 55.♖xh6 ♖xg2⇄.

53...♖c2+ 54.♔d3 ♖xg2 55.c5 ♖f2 56.c6 ♖f8 57.c7 ♖c8 58.♖c4 h5 59.b4 h4 60.b5 h3 61.b6 h2 62.♖c1 ♔g3 63.♖h1 ♔g2 64.♖xh2+

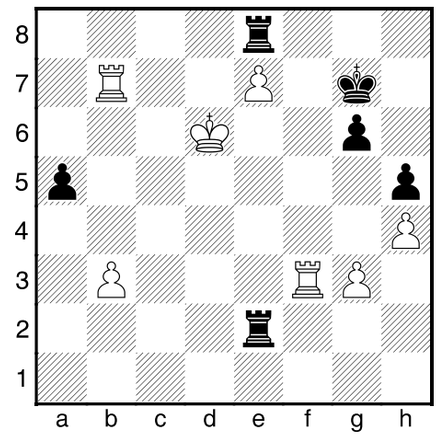
1-0

This win over second−place Agnieszka made Qiyu the 2016 Canadian Women's Champion.

(77)
Chiku−Ratte, Olivier−Kenta
Ouellet, Maili−Jade

A51
Quebec op Longueuil (2.5), 21.07.2019

59.b3



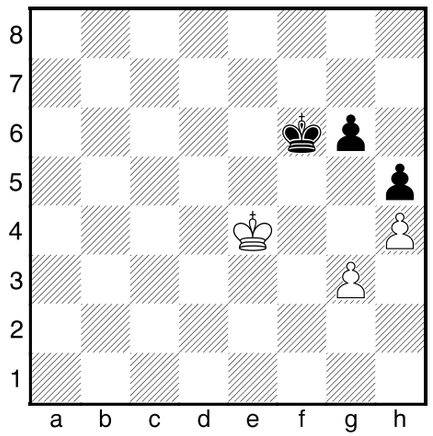
59...♖e4?

59...♖d2+? *60.♔c5 (or* 60.♔c6) *...♖e2 61.♔b5 ♖e5+ 62.♔a4 ♔g8 63.♖f6 ♔g7 64.♖bb6+-.*

59...♖e1! 60.♖f8!? *(60.♖d3 ♔f7):*
60...♖xf8?? 61.e8♕++-;
60...♖1xe7? 61.♖xe7+ ♔xf8 62.♖xe8+□ ♔xe8 63.♔c6+-;
60...♖d1+□ 61.♔c5 ♖xe7=.

60.♖a7?
60.♖f8!+- ♖xf8 *(60...♖d4+ 61.♔c5+-)* 61.e8♕++-.

60...♖e2 61.♖c7 ♖d2+!= 62.♔e6 ♖e2+□ 63.♔d6 ♖d2+ 64.♔e5 ♖e2+ 65.♔d4 ♖8xe7 66.♖c6 ♖2e4+ 67.♔d3 ♖b4 68.♔c2 a4 (68...♖eb7 69.♖a6 ♖4b5±) **69.bxa4 ♖xa4 70.♖c8 ♖g4 71.♔d3 ♖f7 72.♖e3 ♖d7+ 73.♔e2 ♖gd4 74.♖c2 ♖f7 75.♖c6 ♖g4 76.♖c5 ♔h6 77.♖c8 ♔g7 78.♖b8 ♔h7 79.♖bb3 ♔g7 80.♖e6 ♔h7 81.♖be3 ♔g7 82.♖e7 ♖xe7 83.♖xe7+ ♔f6 84.♖e3 ♔f5 85.♔f3 ♖a4 86.♖c3 ♖g4 87.♖c5+ ♔f6 88.♖c8 ♔f5 89.♖f8+ ♔e5 90.♖e8+ ♔f5 91.♖e7 ♔f6 92.♖e4 ♖xe4 93.♔xe4**



Curiously, all Black's legal moves draw.

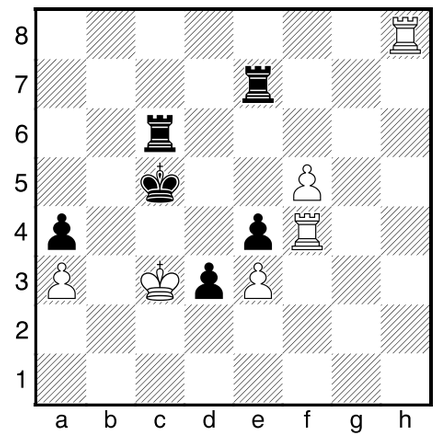
93...♔e6 94.♔f4 ♔f6 95.g4 hxg4 96.♔xg4 ♔g7 97.h5 gxh5+ 98.♔xh5

½-½

(78)
Krnan, Tomas
Preotu, Razvan

A12
Canadian Closed Guelph (6.3), 13.07.2015

54.♖h8 ♖c6



55.f6??
55.♖d8? ♔b6+! 56.♔d2 ♖c2+ 57.♔d1 ♖h7-+ #10;

55.♔d2□ Getting out of the discovered check leaves Black unable to simultaneously activate his Rs while defending his pawns with the K:
55...♔b6?! lets White win the center pawns: 56.f6 ♖c2+ 57.♔d1 ♖f7 58.♖h6±;

55...♔d5 56.♖d8+ ♔e5 *(56...♖d6?? 57.♖xd6+ ♔xd6 58.f6+-)* 57.♖d4!= ♖c2+ 58.♔d1 ♖h7 59.♖dxe4+ ♔f6 60.♖h4□ *(60.♖e6+?? ♔f7□ 61.♖f1 ♖hh2-+)* 60...♖g7 61.♖eg4 ♖b7 62.♖b4=.

55...♔d5+!-+
55...♔d6+!! 56.♔d4 d2□-+ is a more spectacular win.

56.♔b4
56.♔d2? ♖c2+ 57.♔d1 ♖b7 is mating: 58.♖d8+ ♔e5□ 59.♖e8+ ♔d6 60.♖d8+ ♔c7.

56...♖b7+ 57.♔a5 d2 58.♖d8+
58.f7:

a) 58...d1♕? 59.♖d8+ ♔c4□ *(59...♖d6?? 60.♖xd6+ ♔xd6 61.f8♕++-)* 60.♖xe4+□=;

b) 58...♖xf7? 59.♖xf7 ♖c5+! is a miracle draw: *(59...d1♕? 60.♖d7+ ♖d6 61.♖xd6+ ♔xd6 62.♖d8++-)* 60.♔b6 ♖c6+ 61.♔b7 ♖d6□ 62.♖f1 ♔c4= 63.♖d1 ♔d3 64.♔c7 *(64.♖h2 ♔c2)* 64...♔c2! *(64...♖d5?? 65.♔c6+-)* 65.♔xd6 ♔xd1 66.♔e5 ♔c2 67.♖d8 d1♕ 68.♖xd1 ♔xd1 69.♔xe4 ♔c2= and the race ends with both players promoting;

c) 58... ♔c4□ 59.♖xe4+ ♔c3□ 60.♖d8 *(60.f8♕ d1♕-+* White has no safe checks and his King is in trouble.*)* 60...♖c5+□ 61.♔a6 ♖xf7 62.♖ed4 ♖f6+ 63.♔b7 ♖f2-+ Black's passer is much further advanced than White's.

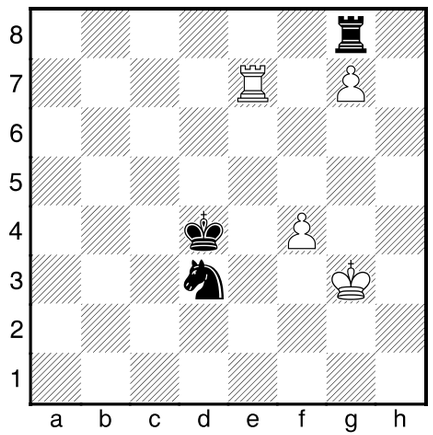
58...♖d6 59.♖xd6+ ♔xd6 60.♖f1 ♔c5! 61.♔a6 ♖b6+ 62.♔a5 ♖xf6 63.♖d1 ♖d6
63...♖d6 64.♔xa4 ♖d3! is *zugzwang*, and Black promotes or mates.

0-1

(79)
Karavade, Eesha
Doknjas, John

A65
Reykjavik Open Reykjavik (7), 24.04.2017
Notes: FM John Doknjas

80.f4



There is a move that saves Black, but one probably only an engine could find in a few seconds.

80...♔d5?
80...♘b4□ 81.♔g4 ♘d5 The Rook is forced to either give up the g7-pawn, or the e−file. 82.♖f7 ♔e4 with my King so close, it is an easy draw.

81.f5
Now White is winning.

81...♔d6 82.f6 ♘e5 83.♔h3□
Putting me in *zugzwang*.

If White had advanced her King to h4 or f4, I would have the ...♘g6+ fork:
83.♔h4? ♘g6+ 84.♔h5 ♘xe7 85.f7 ♖xg7 86.f8♕=;
83.f7?? ♖xg7+-+.

83...♘g6 84.♖e4! ♔d5
84...♔d7? 85.♔g4+- and Black is helpless against the White King advance.

85.♖e1
85.♖e8!! This might have been the move of the game, had it been played. 85...♖xe8 86.f7 ♖e3+ *(86...♖b8 87.g8♕+-)* 87.♔h2□ ♖e2+ 88.♔g1+-.

85...♘f4+ 86.♔h4 ♘g2+??
86...♘e6□ This draws. The threat is 87...♘xg7. 87.♖g1 *(87.♖xe6? is a tempo slow 87...♔xe6 88.♔g5 ♔f7-+)* 87...♔e5 88.f7 ♖xg7 89.♖xg7 ♔f6 90.♖h7 ♔g6 91.♖h5 ♔xf7=.

87.♔g5??
Returning the favour. 87.♔h5□+- ♘xe1 88.f7 The point of 87. Kh5: I cannot take on g7 with check. 88...♖xg7 89.f8♕+- And no matter what I do, either my Rook or Knight will be forked and taken by the Queen.

87...♘xe1 88.♔g6 ♘f3
The Knight returns just in time.

89.f7 ♘e5+
A funny position − Black is the one trying to exchange a Rook and a Knight for two pawns!

editor − or 89...♖xg7+ 90.♔xg7 ♘g5=.

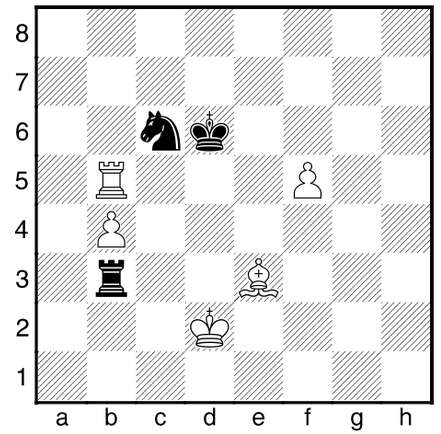
90.♔h7 ♖xg7+ 91.♔xg7 ♘xf7 92.♔xf7

½-½

(80)
Gelfand, Boris
Kovalyov, Anton

E08
Olympiad-41 Tromsoe (6.1), 08.08.2014

68.♔d2
This position could also have been in the VIP section, since Gelfand drew a match for the World Championship against Vishy Anand in 2012 (6:6), but lost in the rapid playoff.



68...♘xb4□
68...♖xb4?? 69.♗c5++-.

69.♗c5+ ♔c6□
69...♔e5?? 70.♗xb4++- wins the ♘ and saves the ♙.

70.♖xb4 ♖f3□ 71.♗d4 ♖xf5□=
This is a theoretical draw, but many strong players have lost it.

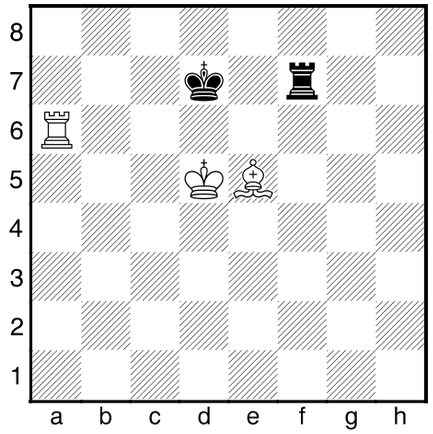
Anton defends by keeping his ♖ very close to his ♔, preventing the typical losing positions

where the ♖ tries to check from behind, but gets blocked by the ♗. IMO, this is a better drawing technique, as it rarely requires the defender to have to find "only moves".

The analysis below is far from complete - check an endgame manual for that - but shows how several strong players have lost it.

72.♖b6+ ♔d5 73.♔d3 ♖f3+ 74.♗e3 ♖f5 75.♖a6 ♖e5 76.♗f4 ♖f5 77.♖a4 ♖f7 78.♖a5+ ♔e6
78...♔c6 79.♗e5 ♖f1=, but 1-0 in 89 moves in Li,R (2374)−Nguyen,T (2227) Al Ain, 2015.

79.♔e4 ♔d7 80.♖a6 ♖e7+ 81.♔d5 ♖f7 82.♗d6 ♖f5+ 83.♗e5 ♖f7



There are 21 games in the MegaBase featuring this position; White has won 4 of them.

Gelfand - Kovalyov
Tromsoe, 2014

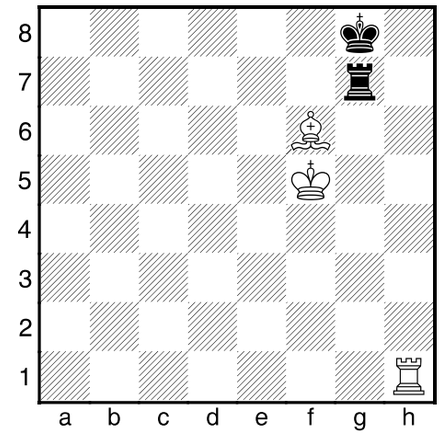
84.♗f6 ♔e8 85.♔e6
85.♖a8+ ♔d7 86.♔e5 ♔c6□=, but 1-0 in 117 moves in Kramnik (2777)−Bruzon (2659) Baku World Cup, 2015.

85...♖e7+□ 86.♔f5 ♖b7 87.♖d6 ♖d7 88.♖e6+ ♔f7 89.♗e5 ♖e7 90.♖h6 ♖d7 91.♗d6 ♔e8 92.♖h8+
92.♔e5 ♔f7 93.♖h1 ♔e8=, but 1-0 after 38 more moves in Vavrak,J−Simacek,P (2427) Slovakia, 2002.

92...♔f7 93.♔e5 ♔g6!
93...♔g7!=, but 1-0 after 12 more moves in Priborsky,J (2229)−Chalupa,I (2149) Karlovy Vary, 2004.

94.♖g8+ ♔f7 95.♖f8+ ♔g7 96.♖f1 ♖f7 97.♖g1+ ♔h7 98.♔e6 ♖g7 99.♖h1+ ♔g6 100.♗e7 ♖g8□
100...♖h7?? 101.♖g1+ ♔h6 102.♔f6 ♔h5 103.♔f5 ♖f7+ 104.♗f6+-.

101.♖h2 ♖g7 102.♗f8 ♖g8 103.♖f2 ♔h7! 104.♗d6 ♔g6 105.♖h2 ♖g7 106.♗f4 ♖g8 107.♖g2+ ♔h7 108.♗g5 ♔g6 109.♖g1 ♔h7 110.♔f5 ♖g7 111.♖h1+ ♔g8 112.♗f6



112...♖h7□
112...♖g2?? 113.♔e6 ♔f8 114.♖c1 ♖e2+ *(114...♔g8 115.♖c8+ ♔h7 116.♖h8+ ♔g6 117.♖g8++-)* 115.♗e5 ♔g8 116.♖h1+-.

113.♖a1 ♔f7
113...♖f7? 114.♔e6!+- ♖b7 115.♖a8+! ♔h7 116.♔f5! ♔h6 117.♖h8+ ♖h7 118.♖g8 ♖d7 119.♖g1 ♔h7 *(119...♖d5+ 120.♗e5 ♔h7 121.♖h1+ ♔g8*

122.♔e6+- threatens mate and the ♖.*)* 120.♖h1+ ♔g8 121.♔e6! ♖h7 122.♖g1+ ♔f8 123.♖a1 1-0 Van Foreest,L (2526)−Beerdsen,T (2482) Groningen, 2019.

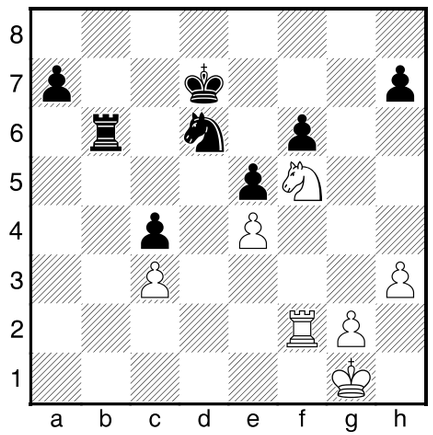
114.♖a6 ♖h5+ 115.♗g5 ♖h7 116.♗h6 ♔g8!
(116...♔e8=.)**117.♔g6 ♖g7+□**
Repeating the offer from move 85.

118.♗xg7

½-½

(81)
Libersan, Thierry
Hirschberg, Valerian
D20
Mauricie op Trois-Rivieres (2), 19.03.2016

29.♖xd7 ♔xd7



30.♘g3?
30.♖d2? a5-+ Black just advances the a−pawn.

30.♘xd6! is best, trading to a pawn−down Rook ending:

30...♖xd6 31.♖a2 a6 32.♖a4 ♖c6 33.♔f2 Black is definitely better — up a pawn — but White's ♖ is now much better placed than Black's, and when Black goes ♔b6/b5 to dislodge it, White has ♖b4+ keeping the ♔ away;

30...♔xd6 gives back a weak pawn to activate the ♔ and a−pawn, but it's not enough for a win 31.♖xf6+ ♔c5 32.♖f7 a5 33.♖xh7 *(33.♖e7 ♔d6 34.♖a7 ♖b5 35.♖xh7 ♖b3=)* 33...a4 *(33...♖a6 34.h4 a4 35.♖b7 a3 36.♖b1=* if ...a2 then ♖a1 and the Black ♔ cannot support the a−pawn.*)* 34.♖a7 ♔b5 35.g4 ♖a6 36.♖b7+□=.

30...♖b3-+
The target Black created on move 14 now falls.

31.♖a2
31.♖c2 a5-+ and the white ♖ will be forced to abandon the c−pawn.

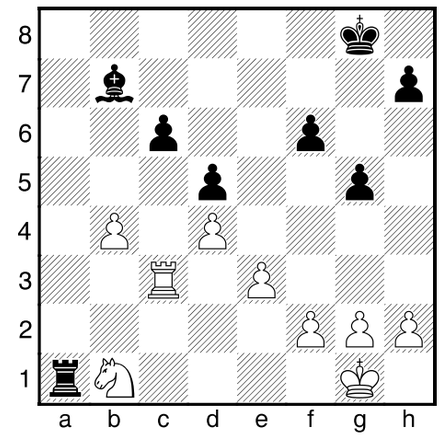
31...♖xc3 32.♖xa7+ ♔c6 33.♔f2 ♖b3 34.♖xh7 c3 35.♘e2 c2

0-1

McGill, 2016 ***Valerian Hirschberg***

(82)
Vilok, V Gadwal
Noorali, Aahil
D07
WYCC U8 (10.36), 27.12.2013

33.♘xb1 ♖a1



34.♖c1?
34.♖b3 ♗a6, and now:

35.h3? is too slow: 35...♗c4 36.♖b2 ♗d3-+ wins the ♘;

35.b5□ the key defensive move: gives up a pawn in return for a piece−saving tempo. 35...♗xb5 36.h3∓ ♗c4 37.♖b8+ saves the ♖ with tempo 37...♔g7 38.♔h2 unpins before the ♗ can attack ♘b1.

34...♗a6 35.♖d1
Sets a trap!

35...♗e2□
Black could have given away the advantage with the careless 35...♗d3?? 36.♘c3± unpins the ♘ and defends the ♖d1 with a big advantage for White.

36.♖c1 ♗d3 37.g3 ♖xb1
Of course, Black avoids creating a self−pin with 37...♗xb1?

38.♖xb1 ♗xb1

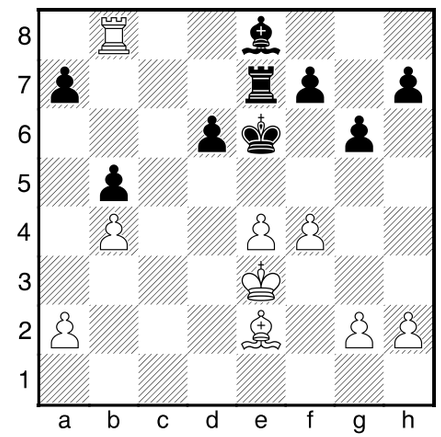
0-1

(83)
Hergott, Deen
Schmidt, Jorg

B38
World 50+ Teams Dresden (1), 26.06.2016
Notes: IM Deen Hergott

My first serious chess game in over a decade!

34.♖b8



Black is under serious pressure: ...a6 or ...d5 or ...f5?

34...d5?
Black finally cracks.

34...a6? 35.♖b6+- and ♖xa6 or e5;

34...f5!! 35.♗d3! and the d4-square for White's King provides for nagging pressure, but this was the only way for Black to play on. *(35.♗xb5 ♗xb5 36.♖xb5 ♔f6! 37.e5+ dxe5 38.♖xe5 ♖xe5+ 39.fxe5+ ♔xe5* and if there is a win here, I don't see it. *)* 35... fxe4 36.♗xe4 d5 37.♗d3 ♔d6+ 38.♔d4±.

35.♗xb5
35.exd5+? ♔xd5+ recaptures with check, easing Black's defence.

35...♗xb5 36.♖xb5 dxe4 37.♖e5+
A spotty game, but a win's a win. As I suspected pre−tournament, the new time controls were going to prove challenging − that was true for nearly all of my games.

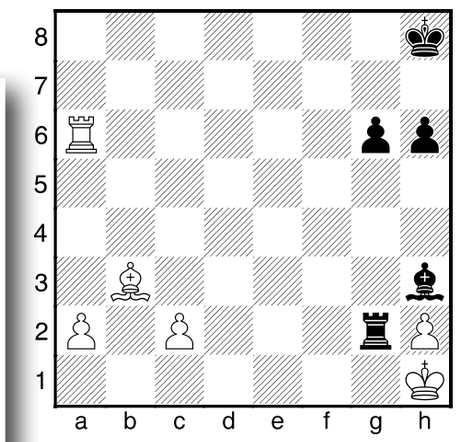
1-0

(84)
Demchenko, Svitlana
Maccarini, Danitza Vasquez

B84
2017 SPFGI St. Louis (5), 26.07.2017
Notes: WFM Svitlana Demchenko

I played White against WIM Danitza Vasquez Maccarini. Her FIDE rating being over 2200, she has played on the national team of her country (Puerto Rico) for multiple Olympiads.

37.♔h1



Demchenko - Maccarini ***St.Louis, 2017***

(photo: Truong)

37...♔g7??
Loses the exchange!

37...♖f2? does not work: 38.♖xg6 winning a pawn and stopping the back−rank mate;

37...♖g5 would be better since it keeps the white king cut out of the game.

38.♖d6??
As the saying goes, "Mistakes come in pairs".

38.♗e6! would be quite a simple win, but I missed that chance. It seems really obvious now, but during the game, in time trouble, I couldn't find it.

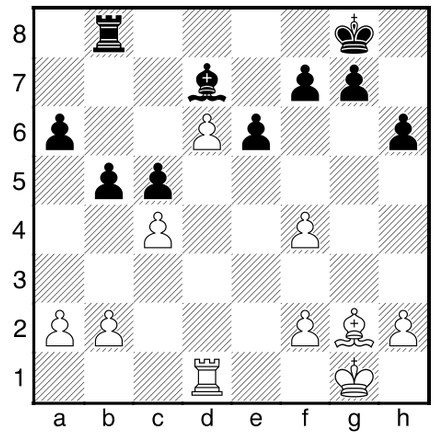
38...♖f2 39.♖d1= ♗g4 40.♔g1 ♖xh2 41.♖d4 ♖h4 42.♗e6?! (Here, I could still fight for a win with 42.a4!↑) **42...h5 43.♗xg4 hxg4** (After this, it is a clear draw.) **44.♔g2 ♖h3 45.♖d3 ♖h5 46.c4 ♖c5 47.♖d4 ♖a5 48.♖d2 ♖c5 49.♖c2 ♔f6 50.♔g3 ♔e5 51.a4 ♖a5 52.♔xg4 ♖xa4 53.♔g5 ♔d6**

½-½

(85)
Kleinman, Michael
Brunner, Nicolas

B51
Barcelona Sants Open (8), 24.08.2017
Notes:
FM Michael Kleinman

26.exd6 ♗d7



27.b4□
editor − without the previous capture on d6 this would support the ♘, but not create a deadly pair of passed pawns.

27...♖c8
27...cxb4 28.c5 ♖c8 29.c6 ♗xc6 30.♗xc6 ♖xc6 31.d7+-;
27...bxc4 28.bxc5 c3 29.♖c1 *(29.c6?? c2 30.♖c1 ♖b1 31.cxd7 ♖xc1+ 32.♗f1 ♖xf1+ 33.♔xf1 c1♕+-+* and Black can stop the pawns with either ...♕c6+ or ...♕b2+.*)* 29...c2 30.♗e4!+-.

28.♗b7 ♖b8 29.♗g2
Repeating to get closer to time control.

29...♖c8 30.♗b7 ♖b8 31.♗xa6 bxc4
31...cxb4 32.c5 followed by ♖d4-xb4 should win; but 32.♗xb5? ♗xb5 33.cxb5 ♔f8 might be OK for Black.

32.bxc5 c3 33.♖c1 ♗c6 34.♗d3
34.♖xc3 ♖b1+ 35.♗f1 ♗b5 is Black's point. Even here, White actually still wins with 36. ♖b3, but there is really no point to allow this.

34...♖a8 35.f3!
This move dislodges the Bishop from its ideal square on c6 by preparing ♗e4, and also makes space for the king.

35...♗xf3
35...♔f8 36.♗e4 ♗xe4 37.fxe4+-;
35...f5 36.♗c4+-.

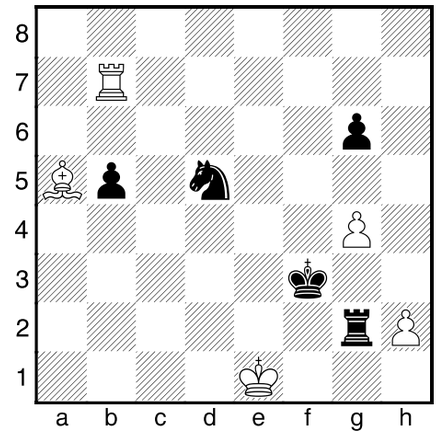
36.♗b5 ♖xa2 37.d7 ♖d2 38.♖xc3 ♗e4 39.♗d3

1-0

(86)
Sokolov, Ivan
Kovalyov, Anton

E42
Championnat Ouvert du Quebec Montreal (5), 24.07.2013

51.♖b7 ♔f3



52.♔d1??
Hangs the ♗a5.

52.♖xb5?? ♘e3-+ and there's no good way to prevent ♖e2#;

52.♗b6? stops both Black's attack on the ♔ and White's attack on b5 52...♖xh2∓;

52.h4?! ♘e3 the ...♖e2 mate threat saves the b−pawn. *(52...♔xg4? 53.♖xb5=)* 53.♖f7+□ ♔xg4∓.

The solution is to recognize that Black's pieces are optimally placed and we have a sort of soft *zugzwang*: if Black's ♔ or ♖ take one of the kingside pawns then the mate threats are gone and White can safely take on b5. So White can simply save the h−pawn with 52.h3!:

52...♖a2!? 53.♖d7 or ♗b6.

52...g5 isn't exactly a pass move because it puts the g−pawn on a vulnerable square *53.♗d8=;*

52... ♘e3 53.♖f7+□ ♔e4 *(53...♔g3 54.♗c7+= the fork on f3 saves the h−pawn)* 54.♖e7+ It's hard to see how Black will make any progress: 54...♔d3 55.♖d7+ ♔c4 56.♖c7+ ♔b3 57.♖c3+ ♔a4 58.♖xe3 ♔xa5 59.♖e6 b4 60.♔d1!=.

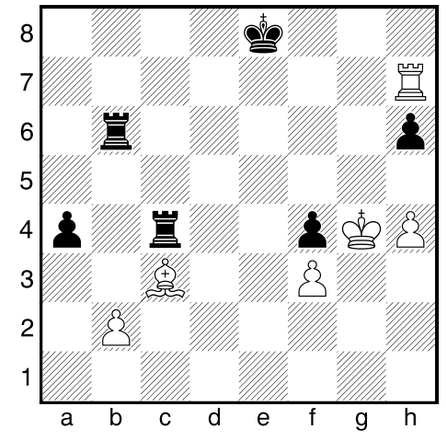
52...♘e3+ 53.♔c1 ♖g1+
Both ♔b2 and ♔d2 lose the ♗ to ...♘c4+.

0-1

(87)
Maslik, Miroslav
Krnan, Tomas

E63
Tatry Open Strbske Pleso (4), 28.09.2015
Notes: IM Tomas Krnan

42.h4 a4



White has done everything right until now in his defensive setup − improved his king, fixed the f4 weakness and kept Black's king cut−off on the 8th rank. He needs one more precise move to draw...

43.♖a7??
After 43.♖a7, the open 5th rank will be crucial and White's king will find himself in a mating net.

43.♗e5!:
43...♖b5 44.♖h8+! ♔d7 45.♖h7+ and Black will have to allow ♖xh6+ if he wants to escape the perpetual: 45...♔e6 46.♖xh6+!=;

43...♖b5 44.♖h8+! ♔d7 45.♖h7+ and Black will have to allow ♖xh6+ if he wants to escape the perpetual: 45...♔e6 46.♖xh6+!=;

43... ♖e6 44.♔f5 ♖e7 45.♖xh6 ♖c5 46.♖e6□=.

43...♖b5!-+
There is no defence against ...h6-h5+ followed by ...♖b3.

44.♗f6 h5+ 45.♔h3 ♖b3 46.♔g2 (46.♗c3 a3-+) **46...♖c2+ 47.♔g1 ♖d3 48.♗c3 ♖d1+ 49.♗e1**

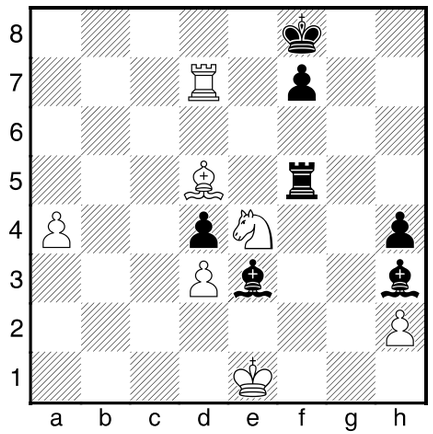
0-1

(88)
Cheng, Bindi
Fier, Alexandr

A09

10th Grand Pacific Open Victoria (6.1), 28.03.2016

44.♖d7 ♗h3



It's still equal, but Black's pieces are starting to tie knots around the white ♔, and even when you're leading the tournament on board 1 it's easy to see ghosts at the end of a long game in the last round of a six−round long−weekend event.

45.♖d8+??

White's ♔ can't move: 45.♔e2?? ♗f1+-+ wins d3 and setting up a mating net. Similarly, 45.♔d1 loses the ♖ to ...♖f1+ then ...♖f4, and Black threatens both ...♗xd7 and...♗f1+.

Also, the ♖d7 isn't immediately vulnerable to the ♗h3, since Black is not actually threatening to win the ♗d5 by chasing away the defending ♖ with ...♔e8, since 45...♔e8 (45...♖f1+ 46.♔e2 ♗xd7 (46...♖g1 47.♖xf7+ ♔e8 *(47...♔g8?? 48.♘f6+ ♔h8 49.♖h7#)* 48.♘f6+ ♔d8 49.♗c4 the ♘ guards against ...♗g4 and White has at least a repetition. This line shows why the white ♖ has to stay on the 7th,) 47.♔xf1 the ♗h3 was defending the ♖f1.) 46.♖a7 ♖xd5? 47.♘f6++- wins for White, and shows why the ♘e4 shouldn't move.

45.a5! is a cool move — all of White's other pieces are perfectly placed to avoid Black's tactics — and this simply puts the pawn on a safe square so that ...♗xd7 won't be attacking it. 45...♖f1+ 46.♔e2 ♖a1 47.♖xf7+□ ♔e8 *(47...♔g8?? 48.♘f6+ ♔h8 49.♖h7#)* 48.♘d6+= or 48.♘f6+=.

45...♔e7-+ 46.♖d6 ♖f1+!

46...♗f4 wins a piece, but Black's move is better.

47.♔e2 ♖g1

There's no good defence to ...♗g4#.

0-1

James Tarjan

Windsor, 2016 CO

(photo: Doknjas)

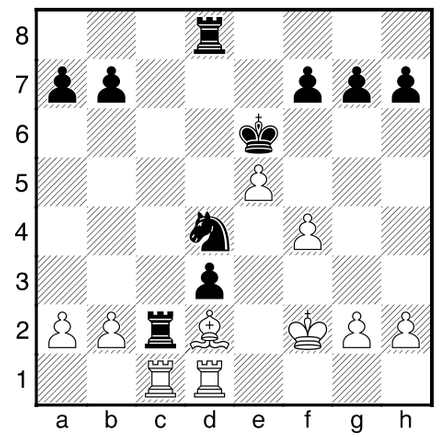
(89)
Vettese, Nicholas
Tarjan, James

B12

2016 Canadian Open Windsor (2), 11.07.2016

Notes: GM James Tarjan

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.♘f3 cxd4 5.♘xd4 e6 6.c4 ♗b4+ 7.♘c3 ♘e7 8.♕b3 ♘bc6 9.♘xc6 ♘xc6 10.cxd5 ♕xd5 11.♕xb4 ♘xb4 12.♘xd5 exd5 13.♗b5+ ♗d7 14.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 15.0-0 ♖ac8 16.♗d2 ♘c6 17.♗c3 ♔e6 18.♖fd1 ♖hd8 19.f4 d4 20.♗d2 d3 21.♔f2 ♘d4 22.♖ac1 ♖c2



What happens after 23.♖xc2?

23.♖b1
editor 2021 − White is losing directly in the game line, but there is one line where Black has to navigate some very sharp tactics to end up with a difficult−to−win endgame. The tactics are short, but there are a lot of branches; the underlined part is best play:

23.♖xc2! dxc2 □ *(23...♘xc2?= is just dead equal.)* 24.♖f1!! creating tempo−winning tactics on the e and f−files *(24.♖c1? ♘b3!! and ...♖xd2 is the only way to win.)* 24...♘f3!! *(24...♘f5? 25.♔e2=)* 25.f5+□ *(25.♗c1?! ♘xh2-+; 25.♔xf3? ♖xd2 26.♖c1 ♔d5-+* the black king invades or his rook feasts.*)* 25...♔xe5 *(25...♔xf5?? 26.♔xf3 ♖xd2 27.♔e3++- shows one point of 24.♖f1.)* 26.♗c3+ ♔xf5 *(26...♘d4? 27.♔e3+-)* 27.♔e2□ ♖d1! *(27...c1♕!? 28.♖xc1* and Black gets to a better ending after ...♘d4+∓.*)* 28.♖xf3+! *(28.♖xd1 cxd1♕+ 29.♔xd1 ♘xh2 30.♗xg7 ♔f4-+ the g−pawn is a goner.)* 28...♔e6 29.♗d2 c1♕ 30.♗xc1 ♖xc1∓ and White has escaped to a pawn−down rook ending and Black still has a lot to prove.

23...h5 24.♔e3 ♘f5+ 25.♔f3 ♖d5
White is clearly in trouble. He comes up with a nice trap.

26.♗c3 ♘h4+ 27.♔g3 ♘f5+
27...♘xg2? 28.♗d2! trapping the ♘.
After the game Vettese pointed out the possibility of 27...g5 28.fxg5 ♘xg2 29.♗d2 ♖xe5-+. Seems convincing, though I don't see how he holds the position anyway, as the game went.

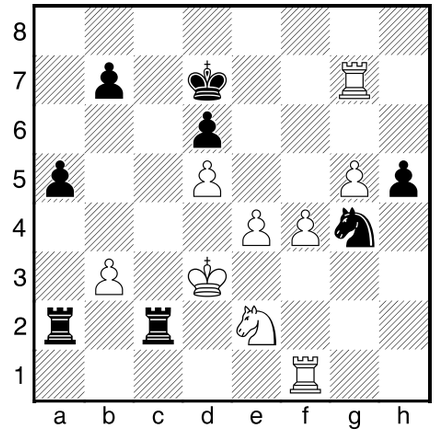
28.♔f3 ♘h4+ 29.♔g3 ♘g6 30.♖d2 ♖xd2 31.♗xd2 ♖c5 32.♖c1 ♖c2 33.♖xc2 dxc2 34.♔f2 ♔f5 35.g3 (The only hope is to keep Black's king out of e4 with 35.♔f3 but after 35...♘e7 it is lost anyway.)
35...♔e4 36.♔e2 h4 37.♗c1 h3 38.b4?! b5 39.a3 ♘e7 40.g4 ♘c6 41.♔d2 ♔xf4 (Various ways to win I am sure, but always good in practice to choose the way that offers the opponent absolutely no chance whatsoever.) **42.♔xc2+ ♔xg4 43.♗e3 ♔f3 44.♔d2 a6 45.♗c5 ♘xe5 46.♗f8 g5**

0-1

John Yoos

(90)
Sarwer, Jeff
Yoos, John
E70
CAN-ch Montreal (9), 28.08.2001

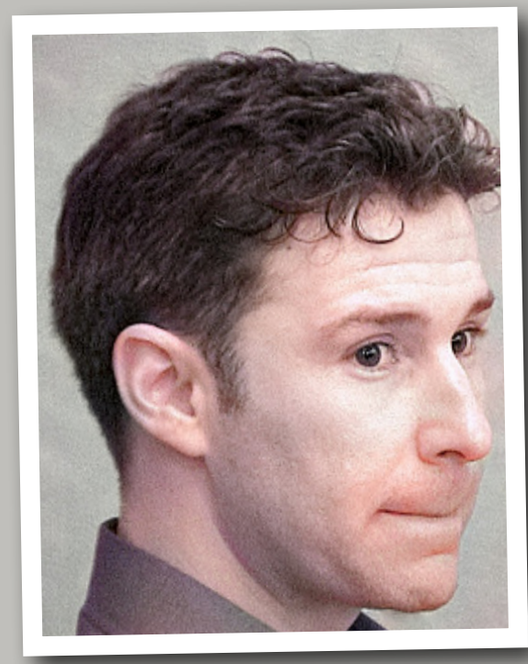
47.♖g7+



A long last−round game. White needs a win to reach 6/9 and be eligible for the IM title. White won a pawn in a ♘ge2 KID, but Black has active Rs behind White's pawns. What should Black do?

47...♔d8?
47...♔c8? 48.♖c1+- forces off a R and leaves White's K safe, with an easy win.

47...♔e8□= 48.♘d4 ♖d2+


Victoria, 2002 Zonal (photo: Scoones)

(48...♘f2+ 49.♖xf2 ♖xf2 50.f5+-)
49.♔c3:

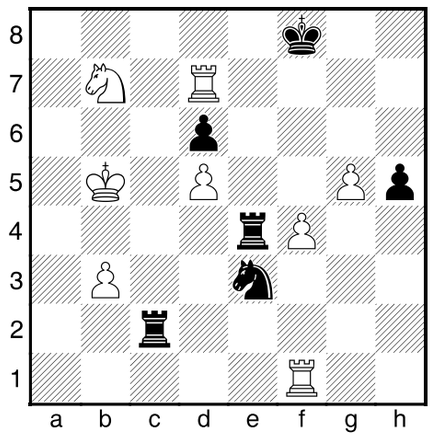
49...b5 there's no ♘c6+, so White's K is stuck in a box.
50.♖c1 ♘f2 51.♘xb5 ♘d1+ 52.♔c4 *(52.♖xd1?? ♖ac2#)* 52...♘e3+ 53.♔c3=;

49...♘e3?! might transpose, but White has 50.♖a1! ♘d1+□ 51.♔c4 *(51.♖xd1 ♖xd1 52.♖xb7∞)* 51...♖xd4+!? 52.♔xd4 ♖xa1 only White has winning chances here.

48.♘d4! ♖d2+
48...♘f2+ 49.♖xf2 ♖xf2 50.g6+-.

49.♔c3 b5 50.♘c6+ ♔e8 51.♘xa5! ♖e2
51...♖xa5? 52.♔xd2+-.

52.♘b7 ♔f8 53.♖d7 ♖ac2+ 54.♔b4 ♖xe4+ 55.♔xb5 ♘e3



56.♖a1?!
56.♘xd6! ♖d4 *(56...♘xf1 57.♘xe4+-)* 57.♖a1! ♖xd5+ 58.♔b6 Black has to give up an exchange to avoid getting mated: 58...♖c8 59.♖aa7! ♖b8+ *(59...♖xd6+ 60.♖xd6+-)* 60.♔c7+-.

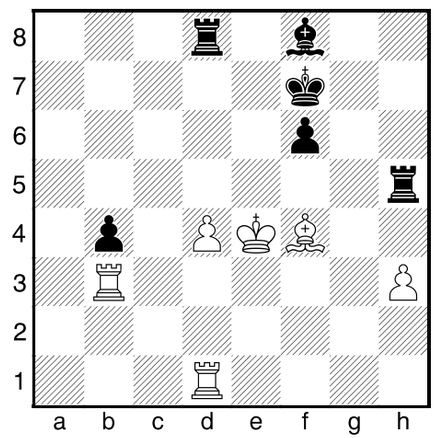
56...♘xd5 57.♖a8+ ♖e8 58.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 59.♖xd6??
(59.♖d8+□ ♔e7 60.f5□ wins. See PGN for notes.)
59...♘xf4= 60.♘c5 h4 61.♘e4 ♖e2 62.♘f6+ ♔e7 63.♖d4 ♖e5+ 64.♔c6 ♘g6 65.♘d5+ ♔f7 66.b4 ♖xg5 67.b5 h3 68.♖d1 ♘e5+ 69.♔c7 h2 70.♖h1 ♘f3 71.b6 ♖xd5 72.b7 and both sides have to give up their Rs to stop the pawns, so...

½-½

(91)
Haessel, Dale
Stefansson, Hannes
E12
Reykjavik Open (3.21), 09.03.2016

Notes:
FM Michael Kleinman

40.gxh5 ♖xh5



Does Black have a threat, and (if so) what should White do?

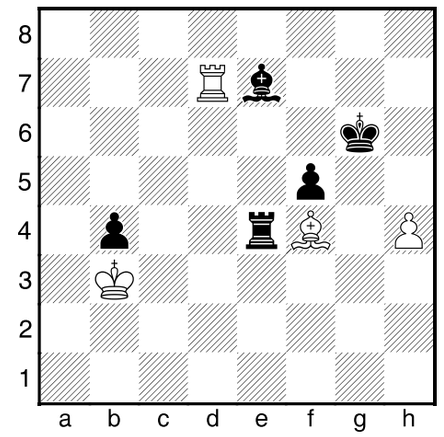
41.d5??
editor − ⌓41.♖f3! gets the ♖ on the other side of the ♔, so that after 41...f5+ (41...♗c5 42.♗c7 ♖d7 *(42...♖h4+ 43.♖f4=)* 43.♗g3 ♖xh3 44.♖dd3 White should be able to stop the pawns from crossing the light squares.) 42.♔d3 the h3-pawn is defended.

41...♖e8+-+
Or 41...f5+ 42.♔d4 ♖h4 43.♖f1 ♗d6 44.♖bf3 ♖c8! and White is paralyzed! It's a nice *zugzwang*; e.g. 45.♔d3 ♖c3+ 46.♔d2 ♖xf3-+ wins a piece.

42.♔d4
42.♔f3? ♖xh3+ 43.♗g3 ♗d6 44.♔g2 ♖xg3+ 45.♖xg3 ♗xg3 46.♔xg3 ♔e7+-.

42...♖xd5+?!
editor − wins a pawn, but it's neither the best nor the most beautiful move: ⌓42...♖h4! 43.♖f3 ♗d6 44.♖df1 ♖c8! same *zugzwang* as above.

43.♔xd5 ♖d8+ 44.♔c4 ♖xd1 45.♖f3 ♗e7 46.♗g5 ♖b1 47.♗d2 ♖b2 48.♖d3 f5 49.h4 ♔g6 50.♖d5 ♖c2+ 51.♔b3 ♖c5 52.♖d7 ♖e5 53.♗f4 ♖e4



54.♗d6??
54.♗d2□ ♖e6 55.♖d5 and White should draw, though it's slightly unpleasant.

54...♗xd6 55.♖xd6+ ♔h5-+ 56.♖f6 f4

0-1

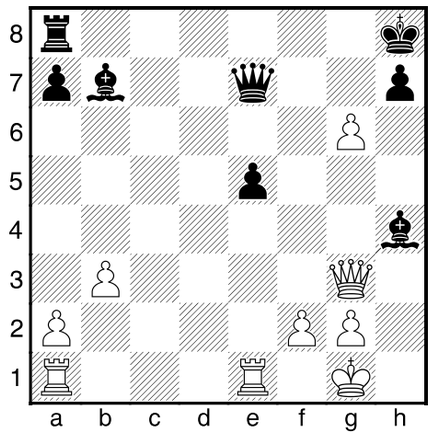
(92)
Krnan, Tomas
Kernazhitsky, Leonid

B31

Tatry Open Strbske Pleso (3), 25.09.2016

Notes: IM Tomas Krnan

24.h4 ♗xh4



What happens on ♕xe5+?

25.♕xe5+ ♕xe5 26.♖xe5 ♗f6

I had the impression that my opponent played this move with added excitement, possibly thinking that I overlooked this. But the variation continues of course...

27.♖h5! ♔g7?

Seems logical, but equality could have only been achieved with 27...♗xa1! 28.♖xh7+ ♔g8 29.♖xb7 ♗d4 and Black's strong bishop combined with the available counterplay against White's pawns fully compensate for their majority: 30.g4 ♖f8 31.♖f7 ♖xf7 32.gxf7+ ♔xf7 33.♔g2= would be completely drawn.

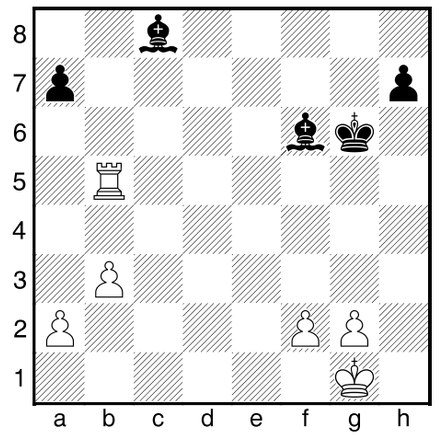
28.♖c1?!

28.♖d1! ♔xg6 29.♖b5 ♗c6 30.♖c5 ♗e4 31.♖a5± and White will gain the a7 pawn with excellent winning chances. The subtle difference between the rook on d1 compared to c1 is that it controls the important d4 square.

28...♔xg6 29.♖b5 ♖c8?!

Perhaps Black thought exchanging a pair of rooks will lead to an easily drawn endgame, but this is not the case. 29...♗e4 30.♖a5 ♖d8! 31.♖xa7 ♖d6 and Black will create enough counterplay against the White's kingside with ...♗d4. All his pieces will be ideally placed and the position should be very close to equal. Now one can note the significant difference between 28.♖c1 and 28.♖d1!

30.♖xc8 ♗xc8



The position appears close to a draw, but there are a number of reasons why defending this position is not at all easy. Firstly, Black's counterplay possibilities are now completely reduced, since he can never attack White's pawns twice. Secondly, Black has the two edge pawns, which gives White's rook enough squares to maneuver along 5th rank and which will keep Black's pieces stretched. Thirdly, if White is able to create a passed pawn on the queenside, Black's bishops alone can never double−protect any square. And fourthly, the bishops the never protect one another, which would be very important in an endgame like this. Based on these reasons, it is obvious that a B+N combination would be much more preferred for Black in a position like this.

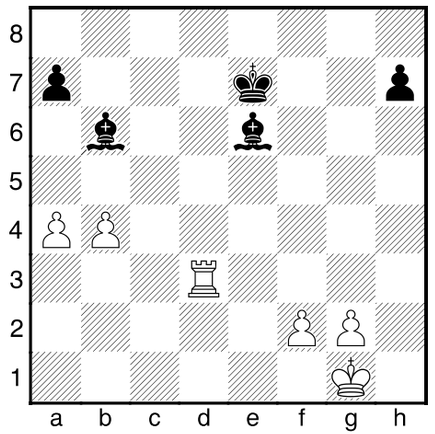
31.♖a5?

31.♖c5! ♗f5 32.♖c6 ♔g5 33.f4+ ♔g6 34.♔h2! This is the move I missed. Without this move Black is able to either defend a7 or threaten the f4 pawn with ...♗e4 and ...♔f5. 34...♗g4 35.g3 followed by ♖a6 (or 35....♔f5 36.♖c7) and White will get the a7 pawn with excellent winning chances. My plan was to try and create a passed pawn on the 'a' file, after which I thought I'll have excellent winning chances. Therefore letting the bishop to b6 seemed fine as I would be able to attack it with b4 and a5, or create a passer on the 'a' file along the way. But Black is fast enough to avoid this...

31...♗d4 32.♖d5 ♗b6 33.a4 ♗e6 34.♖d6 ♔f7 35.b4 ♔e7

Black successfully drives the rook away and is now close to a draw.

36.♖d3



36...a6
Not a mistake, but a slight concession that might allow White to create a queenside passed pawn easier. After 36...♗d7 37.a5 ♗c7 38.♖d4 h5!= White will run out of ways to improve the position and the game should be easily drawn.

37.♖g3!
The only way to create problems for Black. White seemingly only aims at the h7 pawn, but that is not the only threat...

37...♗d4?!
Missing White's reply and giving him additional chances.

⌓37...♔f6 38.♖c3 ♗d7 39.♖d3 ♔e7 40.b5 axb5 41.axb5 ♗f5= and White's passed 'b' pawn is nowhere near as effective as it would be on the 'a' file, as Black's pieces are closer together and White has one less file for the rook to maneuver.

38.♖g5!
This was also threatened. Now White can again attack both of Black's pawns and the defence becomes very difficult.

38...♔f6 39.♖a5 ♗c8
39...♗c4 40.♖h5!

40.♖d5
With Black's pieces stretched to the defence of his edge pawns, there is always an attacking square for the rook on the 5th rank. Obviously not 40.b5?? ♗c3 or 40.... ♗b6=.

40...♗e5 41.b5 axb5 42.♖xb5 ♗d4?

Tomas Krnan *Oakville, 2020*

The decisive mistake, but defending this position is extremely difficult. It was necessary to sacrifice the h7 in order to stop the advance of the 'a' pawn: 42...♗d7! 43.♖b4 ♗c3 44.♖c4 ♗e1 45.♖d4 ♗e6 46.♖f4+ ♔e5 47.♖h4 ♔d6! *(47...♗f5 48.♖h5* followed by a5*)* 48.♔f1 ♗c3 49.♖xh7 ♗d7 50.♖h4 ♔c5± and converting this into a win is not at all easy.

43.a5+-
The black king has to defend the h7 pawn, but it now becomes clear that the bishops cannot stop the a−pawn alone.

43...♗a7 44.a6! h6
Loses fast.
Black had one last resource to make White's task more difficult: 44...♗xa6! 45.♖a5 ♗xf2+ 46.♔xf2 and according to the tablebases, White wins in 80 (!) moves, which suggests White could potentially have some real converting difficulties. During the game I knew this was the best defence but assumed the position would be winning.

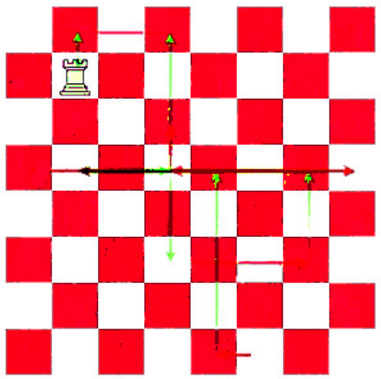
Needless to say I was happy to see 44....h6 played.

45.♖h5 ♔g7 46.♖d5 ♗e6 47.♖d8 ♗c5
One last trick was possible: 47...♔f6 48.♖a8 *(48.♖h8 ♔g7 49.♖a8 ♗d4 50.a7+-)* 48...♗d4 49.a7?? ♗f7!

48.♖b8 ♔f6 49.♖b7
A neat final position. Both 49....♗d5 50.♖b5 or 49....♗c8 50.♖c7 loses a bishop. And what's also interesting about the endgame is that White moved only the rook and his queenside pawns to win against Black's king, bishops and two pawns!

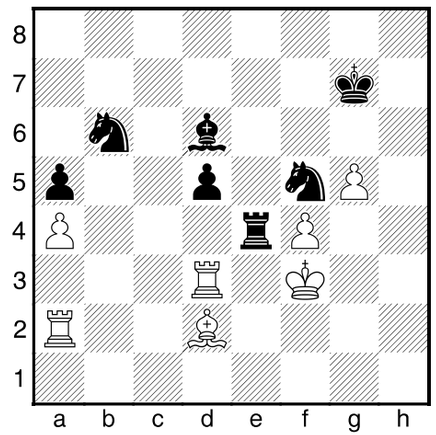
editor − this rook made 19 of White's 49 moves, 11 of them on the 5th rank.

1-0



(93)
Doknjas, Neil
Murray, David

B13
Oregon Open (4), 05.09.2016
Notes: Neil Doknjas



...♘d4+ or ...♘c4

45...♘d4+?
45...♘c4 maintains the pressure on White.

46.♖xd4 ♖xd4 47.♗c3 ♔g6?
47...♗c5? 48.♖d2+-.
47...♗e5□ 48.♗xd4 ♗xd4 49.♖e2!± and Black has better chances than in the game.

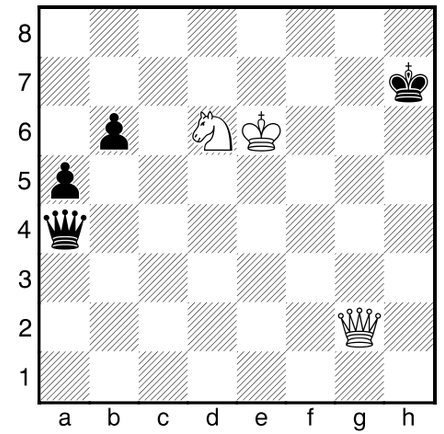
48.♗xd4 ♘c4 49.♔g4

1-0

(94)
Plaskett, James
Hébert, Jean

C06
World 50+ Teams Dresden (3.7), 28.06.2016
Notes: IM Jean Hebert

58.♕g2+ ♔h7



Now White could have won, but with a quiet move humanly impossible to find, as in an end−game study.

59.♕h1+?
59.♕g3!!, the only move and the computer announces #14!

If you find a good enough reason why a human player should find a move like that I am interested in hearing it. 59...♕a2+ 60.♔f6 ♕a1+ 61.♔f7 ♕f1+ 62.♔e7 ♕c1 *(62...♕e2+ 63.♔f8* wins immediately.*)* 63.♕d3+ ♔h6 64.♘f7+ ♔g7 65.♕d4+ ♔h7 66.♕e4+ ♔g7 67.♕g4+ ♔h7 68.♕f5+ ♔g7 69.♕f6+ ♔h7 70.♘g5++- #3;

editor 2021 − 59.♕h3+!! also wins, and is even faster — #9 according to the computer — which shows just how far computers have advanced in the 5 years since Jean annotated this game and I proofread it.

59...♔g6
Now it's drawn. White gets no more chances. Sometimes I wonder if games like this makes you grow older faster. :)

60.♕g2+ ♔h5 61.♘f5 ♕c4+ 62.♔f6 ♕c3+□ 63.♔f7 ♕c4+ 64.♔e7 ♕c7+ 65.♔e6 ♕c4+ 66.♔e5 ♕c5+ 67.♔f6 ♕c3+ 68.♔e6 ♕c4+ 69.♔d7 ♕b5+ 70.♔e6
As a final comment, I would like to especially thank Dave and Paul Ross who where the

brains that made this exciting chess adventure possible. On a financial note, the FQE should be thanked for its contribution to my expenses without which this trip may not have been possible.

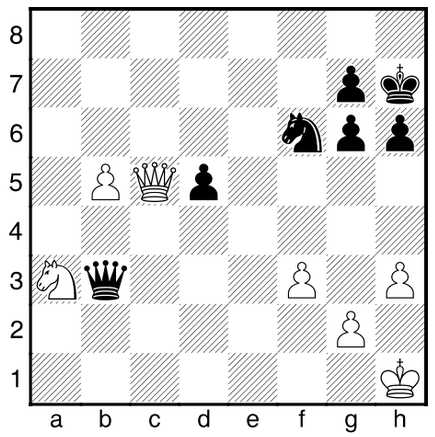
Along with the Ross brothers, Tom O'Donnell and Deen Hergott proved as expected to be perfect teammates and companions...

½-½

(95)
Yang, Kaiqi
Lenderman, Alek

C03
Canadian Open Sault Ste Marie (3.2), 10.07.2017

36.♕c5 ♔h7



Material is equal. Both sides have passed pawns; White's is further advanced but Black's ♕ is well−placed behind it and ♘a3 is not well placed. Finally, Black's earlier ...fxg6 capture has left his ♔ better protected from ♕ checks than White's ♔.

37.♕d6?

This makes sense on general principles — it gets ready to advance the b−pawn while defending the ♘ and staying behind Black's passer — but it loses to the very precise sequence which Black plays.

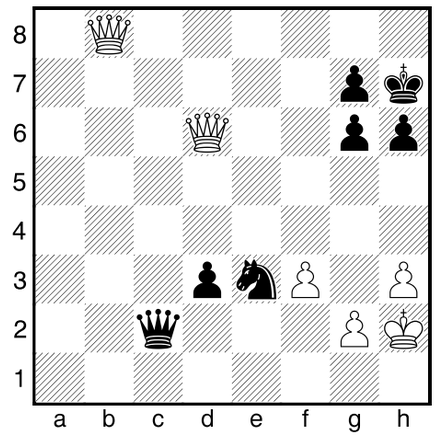
⌓37.♔h2;

37.b6?! isn't as losing as it looks 37...♘d7 38.♕b5□ ♕xb5 39.♘xb5 ♘xb6 40.f4!∓.

37...d4!-+ 38.b6 ♘d5! 39.♔h2 d3! 40.♘c4 ♕xc4 41.b7

White is going to promote (first), but Black aims at a more important target.

41...♘e3! 42.b8♕ ♕c2□



White has to give up a ♕ to stop the mate on g2, after which the d−pawn should win.

Kaiqi Yang

43.♕xg6+!

43.♔g3 ♘f5+-+;
43.♕g3 ♘f1+-+.

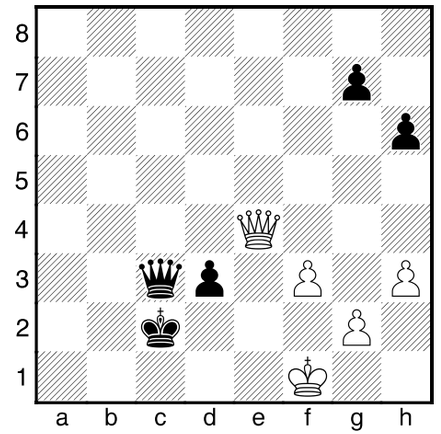
43...♔xg6 44.♕e8+ ♔f6 45.♕f8+ ♔e6

45...♔e5 46.♕xg7+ ♔d5-+.

46.♕e8+ ♔d6 47.♕d8+

47.♕xe3 d2 48.♕b6+ ♔e7-+
Black zigzags back to h7 when there will be no perpetual because the black ♕ defends the diagonal.

47...♔c5 48.♕e7+ ♔c4 49.♕e4+ ♔b3 50.♕xe3 ♕c7+ 51.♔g1 ♔c2 52.♕e4 ♕c3 53.♔f1



Black has shown great resourcefulness to create

Oakville, 2020

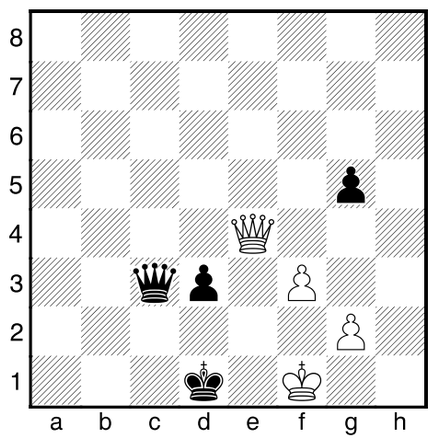
imbalances and great accuracy to turn them into a winning position... but now he starts to drift. No doubt time trouble was a factor.

53...g5
Unnecessary. 53...♔c1!

54.h4! ♔b2 55.hxg5 hxg5 56.♕d5 ♔c2
⌓56...♕c1+ 57.♔f2 ♕c2+ 58.♔g3 d2-+;
⌓56...d2 57.♔e2 ♔c1-+.

57.♕f5 ♕c4
57...♔c1 58.♕xg5+ d2 59.♔f2 ♕d4+ 60.♔e2 ♕c4+ 61.♔f2 ♔d1-+.

58.♔e1 ♕c3+ 59.♔f1 ♔d1?! 60.♕e4!



60...d2?? 61.♕b1+ ♕c1 62.♕a2!=
Black will have to move his ♕, and White will repeat with a check on the first rank.... but somehow this game ended as a win for White? It must have been a flag.... and that's why nobody plays the French (if you listen to the guys on chess.com).

1-0

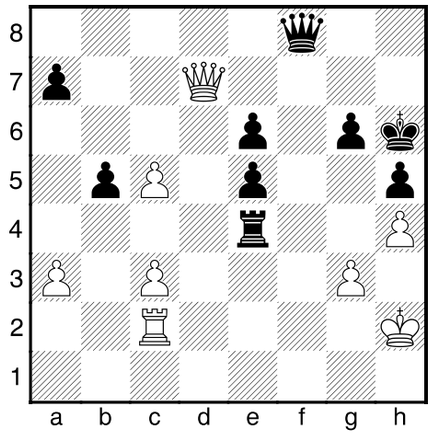
(96)
Abrahams, Daniel
Li, Chao B

B59
Reykjavik Open (1.2), 04.03.2014
Notes: Daniel Abrahams+

From Daniel's introduction:
...we had a little over an hour to prepare once the pairings were posted. I was both excited and relieved when I saw that I was paired against Li Chao... relieved because I did not have to worry about actually scoring in the first round. On the way to the tournament hall someone asked me if I was worried and I responded that I was enjoying "the peace of mind of someone who knows their fate." Preparation was short and simple. ....Not only did I not have time to prepare for everything, but he likely wouldn't waste anything from his normal repertoire against someone he should be able to beat easily. The top four boards were on an elevated stage at the front of the hall, with a sizable gap before any other tables so that the organizing committee could speak and pedestrians could pass by at the same time. There was a webcam behind each board, and no shortage of reporters who wanted pictures of the top boards for the tournament's official site, ChessBase, or anywhere else. The chairs were very comfortable, with wheels and the ability to recline. I almost fell off my chair during the opening ceremony, testing just how far I could go. ...Instead of hunching over the board, agonizing over surely−worse positions like most of my ill−fated compatriots on the top boards, I instead spent most of my time leaning back, hands behind my head, looking out over the playing hall. Since I had no expectations for this game, instead of stressing over the board I resolved to enjoy myself and lord my position over the majority of the players who would never get to have a game on the stage. I was going to lose, of course, but this was still my moment and I was going to enjoy it.

Daniel in the Lion's Den? *Li Chao & Daniel Abrahams*

42.bxc5 ♕f8



The key moment of the endgame.

I thought that I had winning chances, but I was not sure. Black has a lot of options at his disposal and even if some of them are basic and simply parried it is still a lot for a player of my caliber to keep straight. The two moves I identified fairly quickly were ♔g2 and c6. I ended up choosing ♔g2 because I felt it had the higher floor: if it did not win, I had a clear and definite draw. On the other hand if I had miscalculated c6 and was simply losing the pawn, then I would definitely be lost.

43.♔g2?

Keith M: Throwing away the win, but an understandable move especially if time was a factor. 43.c6! "Passed pawns must be pushed":

43...♖c4 44.c7 threatening ♕d8 and 1-0 44...♕c5 45.♕e8 ♕xc7 46.♖d2! and Black will lose his Queen defending his King;

43...♕f3 44.♕d2+ ♖e3□ *(44...♔g7 45.c7 ♖g4 46.♕d7+ ♔h6 47.♖g2+- and the pawn will Queen)* 45.♕g2 ♕f7 46.c4!+-.

43...♖c4 44.♖f2 ♕xc5 45.♕d2+

After the game, I asked him about an earlier move that I thought might have been winning. He shrugged and excused himself, probably because the move I suggested was actually terrible and would have been losing for him.

Allegedly, he told the arbiter to "keep an eye" on me but... I did not hear about this until after the tournament. Presumably both he and the arbiter saw my play across the rest of the tournament and decided that I could not possibly have been cheating. In retrospect, the game itself was not really that good of a game: I did not play very well as White but the position was stale enough that I managed to not lose quickly, and then I took advantage of the one chance he gave me. In fact, outside of 40.♘c5 I did not find any actually good moves, my opponent just blundered at the right time.

The next day, after being tipped off by Magnus, I went out to find a copy of the *Frettablabbi* which gives one memento of the game. On account of being on the front page of the newspaper I also had one local introduce themselves to me, since they had seen me in the paper. The rest of the tournament was not very notable — I played mostly poorly and may have embarrassed myself in front of Kasparov — but this is the one result that everyone will remember, and I am okay with that.

45...♔g7 46.♕d7+ ♔h6 47.♕d2+

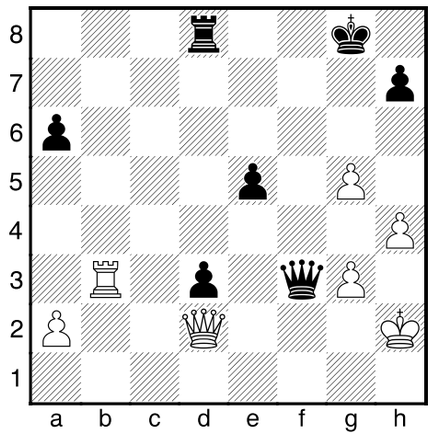
½-½

(97)
Hua, Lefong
Colas, Josh

E00
CCSCSL Autumn Invitational St Louis (9.9), 22.11.2016

A "Very dirty" win. − Lefong Hua.

47.♔h2 ♕f3? (⌓47...♕d5 48.g6 hxg6 49.♕g5 ♕d6-+)

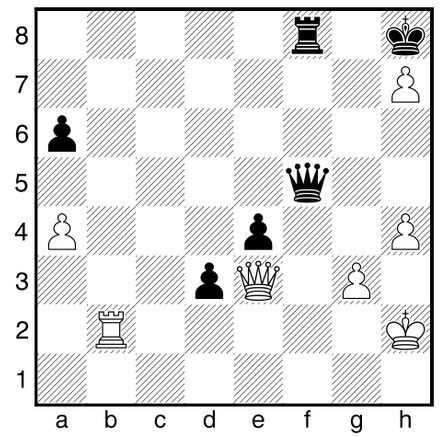


48.g6□⇄
Only move, White now has significant counterplay.

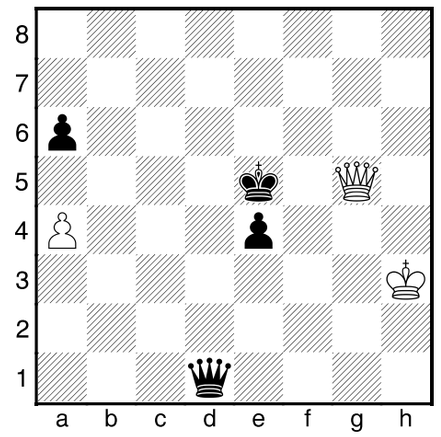
48...♕f5
48...hxg6 49.♕g5□=;

48...♕e2+ 49.♕xe2 dxe2 50.gxh7+ ♔xh7 51.♖e3 ♖d2 52.♔g1□= *(52.♔h3 ♖xa2 53.♖xe5 a5 54.g4 a4-+* Black goes ...♖d2 and gets both pawns on the 2nd rank, when ...e1=♕ decoy followed by ...♖b1+ will win the ♖.*)* 52...♖xa2 53.♖xe5 a5 54.♔f2 a4 *(54...♔g6?? 55.♖xe2+-)* 55.♖a5!= *(55.g4?? a3 56.♖a5 ♖a1□-+* as above. *57.♔xe2 a2 58.♔f2 ♖h1-+)* 55... a3 56.♖a7+! *(56.g4 ♖a1-+* as above.*)* 56...♔g6 57.♖a6+ ♔f5 58.h5! ♖a1 59.♔xe2 a2 60.h6! ♖h1 61.h7=.

49.gxh7+ ♔h8 50.♖b7? ♖c8∓ (⌓50...♖f8-+) **51.♕e3 ♖f8** (⌓51...d2□-+) **52.♖b2** (52. g4=) **52...e4 53.a4**



53...♕e5? (53...♕f3!-+ 54.♕d4+ ♕f6□−+) **54.♖f2= ♖xf2+ 55.♕xf2 ♔xh7 56.♕f7+ ♔h6 57.♔h3 d2 58.g4 d1♕ 59.g5+ ♕xg5 60.hxg5+ ♔xg5 61.♕g7+ ♔f4 62.♕h6+! ♔e5** (62...♔f3?? 63.♕h5++-) **63.♕g5+**



63... ♔d6??
Played very quickly.

64.♕d8+
So was this.

1-0

Lefong Hua

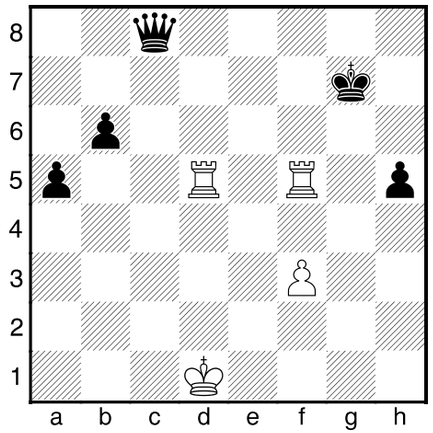
Sends Josh to the showers

St.Louis, 2016

(98)
Bark, Tom
Plotkin, Mark

B40
Ontario Open Brantford (2), 16.05.2015

47.♖fxf5



Major piece endgames are among the most difficult to calculate.

47...h4?!
47...a4!:

48.♖g5+ Creates entirely new geometry. 48...♔f6 49.♖xh5 a3 50.♖d6+ ♔g7 51.♖hd5□=;

48.♖xh5 48...a3 49.f4 trying to use the pawn to support a R 49...a2 50.♖dg5+ *(50.♖hg5+ ♔f6 51.♖gf5+ ♕xf5-+)* 50...♔f6 51.♖h6+ ♔e7 52.♖g7+ (52.♖h7+ ♔d6 53.♖h6+ ♔c7 *(53...♕e6* also wins.*)* 54.♖h7+ ♔b8-+) 52...♔f8□ 53.♖a7 ♕d8+□-+ ...♕d4, stops the mate and prepares to promote or fork one of the stray Rs.

48.♖h5
48.♖f4 ♔g6 49.♖xh4 ♕c3 50.♖g4+ ♔f7 51.♖f4+ ♔e6 52.♖dd4=.

48...h3
48...♕c4 49.♖hg5+ White has a perpetual;

48...♕c3 keeps an eye on the kingside checks, but White can set up a checking box with: 49.♖df5! ♕e3 50.f4! White has a perpetual.

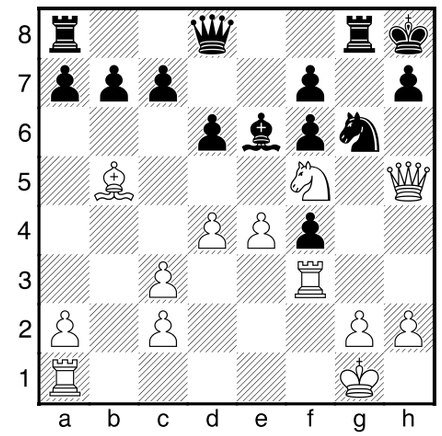
49.♖dg5+ ♔f6 50.♖b5 ♕d8+ 51.♖bd5 ♕a8 52.♖hf5+
The Q can't stop the f−Rook from checking, so it's a perpetual.

½-½

(99+)
Capablanca, Jose Raul
Spencer, RJ

C49
Capablanca simul Winnipeg, 12.05.1912

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗b5 ♗b4 5.0-0 0-0 6.d3 d6 7.♗g5 ♗xc3 8.bxc3 ♘e7 9.♘h4 ♔h8 10.f4 exf4 11.♗xf6 gxf6 12.♕h5 ♘g6 13.♘f5 ♖g8 14.d4 ♗e6 15.♖f3



Capablanca wrote that White is, “Threatening mate in 16 with ♕xh7+.” His analysis continued:
16.♕xh7+ ♔xh7 17.♖h3+ ♘h4 18.♖xh4+ ♔g6 19.♖h6+ ♔g5 20.h4+ ♔g4 21.♘e3+ fxe3 22.♖f1 ♗c4 23.♗xc4 d5 24.♗e2+ ♔g3 25.♖f3+ ♔g4 26.♔h2 ♕d6+ 27.♖g3+ ♔f4 28.♖xf6+ ♕xf6 29.♖f3+ ♔g4 30.♖f5+ ♔xh4 31.♖h5#.
− Capablanca.
Translated by Edward Winter; see: CFC NL Jan 2010.

However, it turns out there is an error in Capa’s analysis, and so there is a problem in this “problem”. ***Can you find it?***

The game continued:
15...♘f8 16.♖xf4 ♖g5 17.♕h6 d5 18.♗d3 c5 19.exd5 ♗xd5 20.♘e3 ♘g6 21.♖af1 ♕f8 22.♕xf8+ ♖xf8 23.♗xg6 hxg6 24.h4 ...
[Black resigned shortly.]

1-0

Answer in next issue.